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'Most Arabs want to end Gulf war rift'

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid said Monday that most Arab leaders wanted to heal the rift caused by the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis. Dr. Abdul Meguid told the official United Arab Emirates (UAE) news agency Wam that he had contacted heads of the league's 21 members as part of an initiative to patch up differences. "I have so far received 13 positive responses to my initiative to achieve national reconciliation," he said during a visit to the UAE. Dr. Abdul Meguid said he had proposed an Arab trilateral — grouping Egypt, Morocco and Mauritania — to heal the internal split, caused by the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Gulf states have accused Jordan, Yemen, Sudan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation of siding with Iraq during the crisis. "Achieving Arab solidarity needs time but we are moving on the way and we hope we will succeed," said Dr. Abdul Meguid. The secretary general did not clarify if he was seeking an Arab summit. "Frankness will come before reconciliation. We should discuss all Arab issues in a civilised manner without any insults," he said. "We have to tell those who made a mistake and they must redress it."

Nearly 200 Palestinians to return home

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (R) — Almost half the 396 Palestinians expelled by Israel to South Lebanon expect to return Wednesday after nearly nine months in exile. Expellee leader Abdul Aziz Al Ramisi told reporters at their tent camp that the first batch, said by Israel to number 187, would return Wednesday after a farewell party. The expellees expect the International Red Cross to supply them on Tuesday with a list of the names of those allowed to return but most have already heard whether they are included. Israel says the remaining 209 exiles will be allowed back by the end of the year. Also Israel will allow six Palestinians expelled to Jordan to return to the occupied West Bank, an Israeli government official said. Israel's Itim news agency said that a military committee had decided three Palestinians — all originally from the occupied West Bank — who were arrested in 1969 and the early 1970s and later expelled to Jordan could return. It named the three as Mahmoud Hassan Isa Fakhaidia from Ras Karkar village near Ramallah, Ali Ahmad Takarka from Beit Fajar village near Bethlehem, and Mahoud Ibrahim Fakir from Kattana village north of Jerusalem. It made no mention of the other three referred to by the government official.

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GCC hopes to end Iran-UAE row

RIYADH (R) — Gulf Arab states said Monday they hoped that dialogue would help settle a dispute between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over three Gulf islands. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers said in a statement following a two-day meeting in Riyadh that they supported the UAE's right to the three islands. "The ministerial council asserts its support for all the measures and peaceful means by the UAE to restore its sovereignty over its islands and expresses hope that dialogue between the two countries would eliminate all problems between them," the statement said.

Hariri promised UAE assistance

ABU DHABI (R) — Lebanon's Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri said Monday he had received assurances of support from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for a project to rebuild South Lebanon after an Israeli attack. Mr. Hariri, on a tour of Gulf Arab states to follow up on Arab aid promises, said UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan promised to transfer the share of the UAE towards this effort. Reports said the amount was \$70 million. Mr. Hariri later left the UAE for Kuwait.

Turkey blames Hizbollah for murder

ANKARA (R) — A senior Turkish official said on Monday the fundamentalist Hizbollah group was behind the murder of a Kurdish member of parliament in southeast Turkey. "The organisation is Hizbollah," Unal Erkan, emergency rule governor for 10 mainly Kurdish provinces, told reporters in the city of Batman where Mehmet Siner died on Saturday. Police chief Mehmet Agar said police had detained 20 people in Batman, adding that the gun used to kill Siner had been used in previous incidents. He did not elaborate.

Iran assails U.S. over Chinese ship

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran said Monday that U.S. insistence that a Chinese freighter be searched for chemical weapons was illegal and contravened principles of free navigation. A week-long search of the Chinese-owned Yuhai ended Saturday, with no evidence of chemical weapons ingredients that Washington had said were bound for Iran. Tehran Radio said that Washington's actions were "completely illegal and contravened international peace and stability."

'Nixon kidnap plot' said to be on tape

NEW YORK (AP) — An informer and a man charged with leading a failed plot to bomb the United Nations and other targets discussed abducting former President Richard Nixon, according to a published report. Lawyers who have seen transcripts of tape-recorded conversations in the case said the two also discussed abducting former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in a hostage-taking plan aimed at winning the release of Muslims held in the World Trade Centre bombing, the New York Times reported in Monday's editions. Esmad Salem, the informer, and Siddiq Ibrahim Siddiq Ali talked about kidnapping influential Americans that had been suggested to them by Al Sayid A. Nossair, the unidentified lawyers told the paper. Mr. Nossair is in prison on a weapons conviction stemming from the 1990 death of radical Rabbi Meir Kahane.

12,000 Sudanese children 'kidnapped'

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) abducted over 12,000 children in southern Sudan and made them carry arms and ammunition in border areas near Uganda, a state-owned newspaper said Monday. Al Sudan Al Hadith did not say when the children were abducted, but it said the health conditions were bad. The matter was being investigated by a committee including the Sudanese Red Crescent.

Arafat due in Oman after GCC backs self-rule deal Syria extends hedged endorsement

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN LEADER Yasser Arafat was due in Oman Tuesday for his first visit to the region since the 1991 Gulf war after the oil-rich kingdoms gave crucial backing to his peace deal with Israel. Mr. Arafat was to brief Oman's Sultan Qaboos Bin Said on the agreement, with Israel for autonomy in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank city of Jericho. Mr. Arafat's support for Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait enraged the Gulf states, which retaliated by cutting off funds to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

signing of the deal in Washington still hinged on completion of "other things," but did not elaborate.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa made no comment when Mr. Arafat told reporters his discussions with Mr. Assad were "very fruitful and will give us more strength to carry on in our long march."

Asked in Cairo if Mr. Assad was unwelcoming, Mr. Arafat replied:

"This (idea) is unacceptable. The talks were brotherly, warm and dignified," he added. "I have thanked President Assad for the meeting, for his understanding and for all the advice he has given, especially in this atmosphere and the developments that the Palestinian and Arab cause is passing through."

Mr. Assad's spokesman told reporters in Damascus that the Syrian leader had told the PLO leader it was up to the Palestinians to decide what suited them. Syrian presidential spokesman Jibril Kourieh said Mr. Assad stressed "Syria's support for the rights of the brotherly Palestinian people, who, together with their institutions, have the right to decide what they see suitable."

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) — the PLO's second and third-largest factions after Mr. Arafat's own Fatah — remained vehemently opposed to the deal, despite Syria's hedged endorsement.

Mr. Arafat spent several hours with Mr. Assad Sunday trying to win support for the peace deal, but the Syrian leader would only tell him it was up to Palestinians to decide what suited them.

The PLO leader praised Mr. Assad, but did not say if he supported the accord, which Syria considers a departure from the common line of consultation and coordination between the Arab partners in the Washington Arab-Israeli peace talks.

However, Mr. Arafat told reporters at Damascus airport the

saying reports of progress in the Syrian-Israeli talks were a cover-up for other groups to endorse the Israel-PLO deal.

Tishreen said reports of progress in talks on an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights were not true.

"They are aimed at creating suitable circumstances to carry out the tactical move of quietly allowing the Israel-PLO agreement to pass."

Before the Arafat-Assad meeting, the official press denounced the autonomy accord as a "violation of the peace process" in which Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians had promised not to strike separate deals.

In view of Syria's criticism over lack of coordination, Mr. Assad's half-hearted endorsement was the best Mr. Arafat could expect.

Also, the fact that Mr. Assad received the PLO chairman with whom relations have been turbulent for more than two decades indicated that he at least has no plans to try to scuttle the accord.

In Riyadh, the GCC ended a crucial meeting Monday in which they backed the Israel-PLO accord.

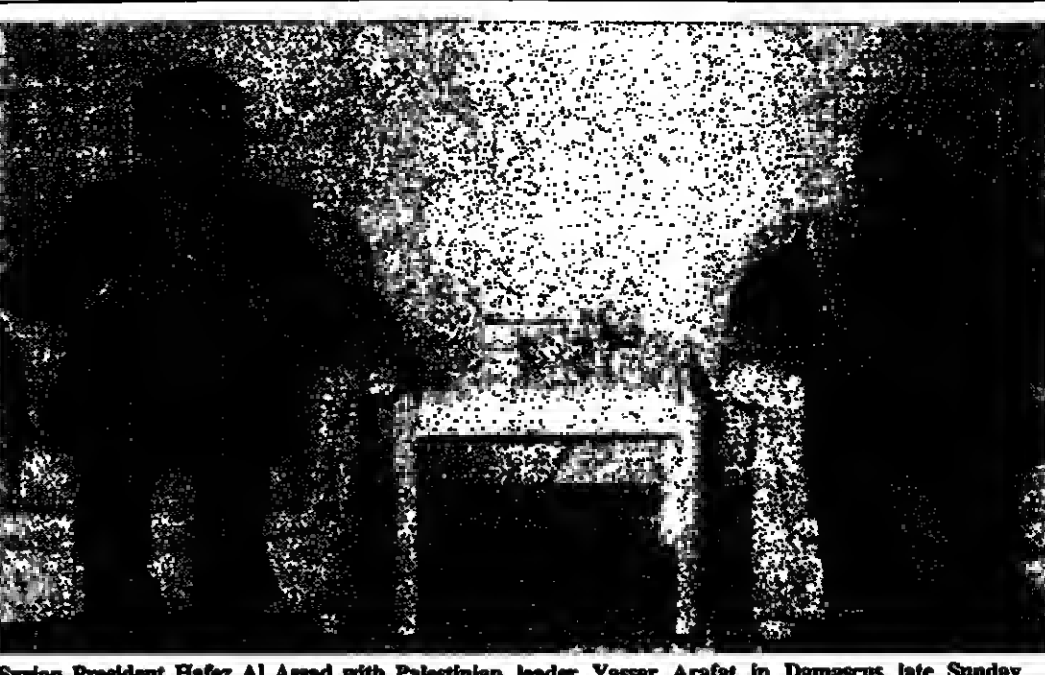
Foreign Ministers of the six countries issued a statement at the close of the meeting welcoming the accord as "a first step on the road to a just, durable and global solution of the Palestinian cause and the Israeli-Arab conflict."

The statement said any solution should be based "on the foundations of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of land for peace, the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab land, in particular the Golan Heights, and the granting of the Palestinian people of their legitimate national rights, including the right to self-determination."

Their decision opens the way for them to provide vital financial backing to the autonomy deal.

The six foreign ministers also slammed the Iraqi government for its "prevarication" in the ap-

(Continued on page 3)



Syrian President Hafez Al Assad with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Damascus late Sunday (AFP photo)

Israel, PLO said ready to sign agreement as scheduled

Combined agency dispatches

EGYPT AND ISRAEL said Monday the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian accord on autonomy was on target for the start of next week in Washington, as proposed by the United States.

On his hectic mission to remove the last obstacles, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Cairo from tough talks in Damascus, and met Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

"There is an agreement on the date for the signing, and it will be around Sept. 13," in Washington, Mr. Musa said after the meeting. Israel and the PLO are trying to finalise agreements on Palestinian autonomy starting in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank city of Jericho as well as mutual recognition, ending 30 years of hostility.

Contacts were underway Monday to "finalise the question of mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel," said Mr. Musa.

But Mr. Arafat cautioned earlier in Syria, where President Hafez Al Assad said he would not block the deal, that the signing of the accord on autonomy was "linked to other questions which have not yet been resolved."

Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials, declining to be named, said Mr. Arafat was seeking a formula to meet Israel's demand for scrapping parts of the PLO Charter.

The PLO leader wanted to avoid having to convene a meeting of the Palestine National Council, they said.

In Israel, Health Minister Yossi Sarid said the two sides should

sign the autonomy accord and documents on recognition next week.

"All the information we have indicates that the two accords with the PLO... will be signed next week in Washington," which is hosting the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Sarid told Israeli radio.

"Mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO is on the right path and there will be no going back," he said.

Israeli Health Minister Chaim Ramon warned, however, that his country would not compromise over its demands for recognition of the PLO.

"The PLO must state unequivocally it is halting all terrorist activities... recognises the right of Israel to live in peace and security and repeal all articles in its covenant which call for the destruction of our country," he said.

Amid conflicting signals, an adviser to Mr. Arafat, Nabil Shaath, said, however, it was "highly improbable" that the Palestinians would be ready in time.

"We need two to three weeks to be ready, we need this thing to be signed with the full support of the Palestinian people and the Arab people," he said, referring to meetings of the PLO leadership.

The letters of recognition could possibly be signed by Mr. Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin, another Palestinian official said.

Previous reports had said that the signatories would be Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Farouk Al Kaddouni, the PLO's top diplomat.

In Tunis, a PLO official said Israel and the PLO will seal the

deal on mutual recognition within two days.

"There is progress and the surprise is expected very, very soon — within two days," the official, who is close to talks with Israel, told Reuters.

He said documents on mutual recognition are being discussed in secret diplomacy.

Asked if the Palestine National Council would meet to ratify the change, the official in Cairo said: "(PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat is authorised to do it immediately."

"He can make a declaration and the Israelis will make their own response."

The signing in Washington next Monday on the accord on self-rule awaits the outcome of talks on the Israel-PLO accord on recognition.

"We are in the last stages of formulating the exchange of these letters," Yoel Zinger, legal adviser of the Israeli foreign ministry, said. "All the elements are agreed and we are polishing the sections."

Following mutual recognition, the United States would announce the resumption of a dialogue it severed with the PLO in 1990, the PLO official in Cairo said.

Israeli officials say self-rule can begin in the Gaza Strip and Jericho within seven months of the signing of the accord.

PLO sources said Mr. Arafat, who is touring the Middle East to win support for the self-rule deal, is expected to chair a crucial meeting of the PLO's Executive Committee on Wednesday or Thursday to take a final decision on signing it.

Palestinian state is possible — Rabinovich

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's ambassador to the United States broke with the Jewish state's long-standing position on Monday and said a Palestinian state was possible.

Itamar Rabinovich told Cable News Network (CNN) in an interview that his country recognised: "statehood was an 'open issue' to be decided to negotiations to take place during a five-year span of Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied territories."

"We know that the PLO and many Palestinians want a state. This is not necessarily what is going to happen... it could happen," Mr. Rabinovich told the U.S. television network.

"But if we knew that it was going to happen, we wouldn't need a five-year transition plan," he said.

Israel's opposition to a Palestinian state has for decades been as rigid as its refusal to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Israel believed that both aimed to wipe out the Jewish state.

Then last month it emerged that Israeli and PLO officials had secretly negotiated the deal giving interim self-rule to the nearly two million Palestinians of the occupied territories.

"We will not stop until we achieve our full independence and set up our Palestinian state with its capital Jerusalem," Palestinian leader Faisal Al Husseini told supporters in the Gaza Strip Sunday.

Even Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who negotiated the deal with the PLO, has proposed no more than a confederation between Jordan and Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A U.S. invitation to sign that agreement in Washington on Sept. 13 has been held up while Israel and the PLO bridge the gaps on a separate agreement to recognise each other after years

of animosity.

Israel refuses to recognise the PLO until the organisation renounces "terrorism," acknowledges Israel's right to live within secure borders and removes clauses from its charter calling for Israel's destruction.

Israel's key negotiator with the PLO, Uri Savir, said Sunday that if everything went well, self-rule would begin in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho within seven months of the signing.

Settlers vow protest

A leader of Jewish settlers opposed to a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians said on Monday that demonstrators would try to baricade Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office for up to two days from Tuesday.

"There may be a severe clash between police and the demonstrators... with several thousand arrests," Abaron Dohm, secretary-general of the council of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, told reporters in Paris.

"When we say we are organising a demonstration outside the prime minister's office, we do not mean we intend to demonstrate for two hours, hear speeches and go home," said Mr. Dohm, referring to a pro-peace rally in Tel Aviv Saturday.

"We intend to block off the prime minister's office without interruption for 24 or 48 hours. We have not said previously that this was the goal (of the rightist demonstration) which has been scheduled since last week," he said.

Settlers and rightists clashed with police outside Mr. Rabin's office last week in a first outburst of hostility to the draft accord between Israel and the PLO.

The White House official de-

Clinton urges Arab leaders to support peace plan

MIAMI BEACH (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton has written to the leaders of nine Arab countries asking them to support the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord for Palestinian self-rule, an administration official said Sunday.

Mr. Clinton sent letters on Friday expressing his support for the apparent breakthrough between Israel and the PLO, a White House official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Clinton also wrote that he hoped the agreement, allowing limited Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Jericho, would spark similar accords between Israel and Syria, Jordan and Lebanon later this year.

The letters were aimed at making "sure to the governments in the region that he wants them on board and wants them to make public statements" supporting the agreement.

Mr. Clinton wrote to the leaders of Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

The official said the U.S. administration hoped that the autonomy accord would give added impetus to negotiations currently in progress in Washington involving Jordan, Lebanon and Syria on the one hand, and Israel on the other.

Mr. Clinton was in Florida on Sunday to meet with supporters and inspect the recovery effort from Hurricane Andrew last year.

Until now he had made no significant comment on the autonomy accord apart from indicating that he was "hopeful."

The White House official de-

(Continued on page 3)

King meets Hurd ahead of British mission in Gulf states

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday met with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, a few hours before the British official was scheduled to leave on a visit to the Gulf.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King and Mr. Hurd discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-British relations.

A Foreign Office spokesman described the talks as "productive and detailed."

The spokesman also said Mr. Hurd had spoken over the phone with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The spokesman said there had been, in the two conversations, "full agreement on the need to support the recent progress, including the Gaza-Jericho proposals" for autonomy in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"The British government will continue to keep in close touch with all those involved in the Middle East peace process," said the spokesman, adding this would be a central topic in Mr. Hurd's visits to Abu Dhabi and Jeddah.

He said the Foreign Secretary would leave for Abu Dhabi Monday evening, spend Tuesday in the UAE capital and fly Tuesday night to Jeddah where he would spend Wednesday.

The Times of London reported early this week that one of the key topics for Mr. Hurd's discussions with Saudi leaders would be the strain in relations between the PLO and the Gulf states in the wake of the crisis sparked by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"Britain will urge Saudi Arabia to end its boycott of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and support the fledgling self-government in Gaza and Jericho," the Times said.

Palestinian sources in Amman confirmed that Mr. Hurd would seek to mend the strain in ties between the PLO and the Gulf states.

Diplomats said the Gulf states were keen to ensure success for the peace efforts sponsored by their U.S. allies and could well contribute as individual states to a proposed emergency fund to help support the Palestinian autonomy.

They said the Gulf states had already pledged to contribute to a separate World Bank-sponsored aid package which would pour \$4.3 billion into the occupied territories to rebuild infrastructure and public services over 10 years.

Beilin suggests self-rule for Arab Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (Agencies) —

Palestinian areas of East Jerusalem should be granted "limited autonomy" in a final settlement with the Palestinians, according to Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin.

"The town could remain united on the urban and administrative levels with the Jewish population tied politically to Israel and the Arab population to the Palestinian entity which will be created," Mr. Beilin told a meeting of left-wing labour party group Sunday.

Mr. Beilin suggested making the area where 150,000 Palestinians live an "autonomous quarter" once Israeli rule over the rest of the occupied territories is over.

Under the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement to start Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, the issue of Jerusalem is left to negotiations for a permanent settlement which are set to start no later than the third year of autonomy.

Israel has declared the city, including the eastern sector it seized in the 1967 war, its "United capital."

Jerusalem's Israel mayor, Teddy Kolek, attacked the proposal by Mr. Beilin who played a prominent role in secret negotiations for the Gaza-Jericho autonomy deal.

"The city must remain united under Israel sovereignty," Mr. Kolek said. "There is no room for two capitals and two municipal authorities."

"The municipality, the one which already exists, must grant equal rights to all the people living in the city," Mr. Kolek said in a statement on Monday.

Mr. Shahal also said Israel will maintain control over the bridges from the occupied West Bank into Jordan during the interim period of autonomy.

"The bridges will be under the control of the Israel defence forces," Mr. Shahal told a press conference. "There is no question about that."

The accord leaves the question of borders to negotiations on a permanent settlement which are to start with the third year of autonomy.

Mr. Shahal called for the Jericho autonomous area, which has not been specified in the agreement, to follow the municipal area.

"I think the simplest way to decide about this issue is to have the municipal boundary," he said.

But he then refused to specify whether he meant the old district of about 300 square kilometres or the one set up under Israeli occupation of only 25 square kilometres.

(Continued on page 3)

Israelis kill Gazan

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies)

— Israeli soldiers shot dead a 16-year-old Arab youth Monday during protests in the Gaza Strip over an Israeli-Palestinian deal on Palestinian self-rule, Palestinian sources and doctors said.

Ghazi Hattab was shot in the chest and died later, doctors at Shifa Hospital in Gaza told Reuters. A four-year-old boy was seriously wounded in the incident.

A Reuters correspondent who saw the clash said soldiers fired at about 100 stone-throwers in Gaza's Bureij refugee camp protesting against an Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement on principles for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

The Islamic Jihad group, which opposes the self-rule accord, called its monthly commercial strike in the Gaza on Monday, commemorating a clash with Israeli soldiers on the eve of the Palestinian uprising in December, 1987.

In Tunis, a senior member of a Palestinian group said Monday it would ignore any order from Palestinian police banning attacks on Israeli settlers on army positions during self-rule in the occupied territories.

"If they ask that, we will carry out an operation the same night," Tayser Koubaa, a member of the politburo of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), told Reuters.

"We will stop our armed struggle only when we get our national rights."

Another top PLO official, Hakim Balawi, was quoted by the Israeli Yedioth Ahronoth daily as telling reporters, "we will halt the actions of armed groups," once autonomy was launched in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Uri Dromi, director of the government press office said demands to stop the uprising were one of the problems delaying agreement.

Mr. Dromi said Israel has demanded an "end of violent activities against Israel including the intifada," Mr. Dromi said that "on this there is a bit of a quarrel" with the Palestinians.

Under the draft accord, a Palestinian police force would be established in the territories to maintain order among the Arabs and prevent attacks on settlers and redeployed Israeli soldiers.

The Palestinians and Israel are also negotiating on the release of political prisoners in Israeli jails, a spokesman for the Palestinian team to Middle East talks said.

"Prisoners could be released after the signing of the autonomy accord," Rami Tahhuh told AFP.

But Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal said he was unaware of any such negotiations. "I don't know about them, and if there were any, I would know about them," he said.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, around 11,000 Palestinians are being held in Israeli prisons "on security grounds."

Israel-Syria peace breakthrough could start today

By Paul Eedle
Reuters

WASHINGTON — There may be a breakthrough between Israel and Syria when Middle East talks resume on Tuesday: Israel may agree to withdraw from the Golan Heights and Syria may accept a full peace including embassies and trade.

After 22 months of lectures about history and arguments about international law, there are signals from both sides that they are approaching the moment of truth.

For the whole of this year, they have been deadlocked on one central issue: Syria has insisted that Israel agree to total withdrawal from the Golan, but Israel has refused to discuss that until Syria accepts that peace means full normalisation of relations, including embassies and trade.

An Arab diplomat who has followed the Syrian position said a shuttle between Damas-

cus and occupied Jerusalem by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher a month ago clarified Hafez Al Assad understood peace had to mean embassies and trade.

"I think that what the president told Mr. Christopher is that once there is agreement on the principle, everything else is mere detail," the diplomat said. "It is clear that he would accept all these details, including normalisation."

The hint is as clear from the Israeli side.

An Israeli official said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was prepared to confront the 16,000 Jewish settlers in the Golan and be flexible about withdrawal provided Syria agreed to security arrangements to guard Israel against surprise attack.

"Rabin, I think, is prepared to fight it out with the settlers but I don't think Rabin, considering his history and biography, would be willing to com-

promise on security," the official said. "If he gets a very good deal on security, he may be much more generous on territory."

The Arab diplomat said he believed Syria might be flexible on security arrangements if Israel committed itself to total withdrawal from the Golan, which it seized along with the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war.

NEWS ANALYSIS

He said everything depended on what Israeli negotiators said Tuesday morning, when the two sides are due to discuss paragraph five of their draft "declaration of principles" — the paragraph which deals with withdrawal and peace.

Working on security was the one big point on which they could not agree during talks last week on the first four paragraphs.

Syria insisted security

arrangements should be on an "equal footing". For instance, if there was a demilitarised zone 30 kilometres on one side of the border, there should be a zone as wide on the other side.

But the Israelis object that northern Israel is only 50 kilometres wide, a broad demilitarised zone inside Syria would mean that on their side, they would have to agree to demilitarise most of northern Israel along the border with Lebanon, as well as the Golan.

"If he continues to say to us that security arrangements are fine but they have to be on an 'equal footing', it just does not fit the geographic realities on the ground," the Israeli official said.

"There must be an arrangement that will prevent a surprise attack on Israel under any circumstances and will permit Israel a few days to mobilise if the peace does not work out as well as we would hope."

The official said normalisation of relations was no substi-

tute. "Just having a flight from Damascus to Tel Aviv once a week is nice, but is not a strategic answer," he said.

But the Arab diplomat predicted: "If the total withdrawal is accepted, then the Syrians would not find it difficult to agree on the other point, the military arrangements."

"If they really say 'total withdrawal', in this case a lot of problems like this 'equal footing' will be sorted out, and normalisation and other things can be agreed upon," he said.

Even if there is movement on Tuesday, it may fall short of a breakthrough. Israel could offer withdrawal "from" the Golan rather than "on" it. But Syria would almost certainly insist on including the word "total" before "withdrawal" as well.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Sunday: "The difference is so thin, you know, you can change it overnight."

A few words on Tuesday could make history.

Arab, Israeli businessmen in secret contacts

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Arab and Israeli businessmen have met, at times secretly, making plans for a Middle East peace economy, the chairman of Israel's chamber of commerce said on Sunday.

Dan Gilerman said discussions on joint projects, away from the limelight of official Arab-Israeli peace talks, were in some cases at an advanced stage.

He said he had been meeting Palestinians from the occupied territories, sometimes secretly, as well as Arabs from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, other Gulf states and other Arab countries for at least six months.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), ending decades of animosity, are close to signing a historic peace deal hammered out secretly by officials of both sides. Israeli treasury officials are hoping for a peace dividend from the efforts.

Mr. Gilerman said there was already Israeli feasibility study for a Riviera-like tourism centre along the Red Sea shores of Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and businessmen from all four countries were interested.

Other plans discussed called for regional railways, joint use of electricity, telecommunications and tourism, he said.

Mr. Gilerman said Israelis knew from years of dealing with Eastern Europe and other parts of the world that businessmen can bridge gaps between countries lacking official relations.

"Chambers of commerce have a certain relative advantage," Mr. Gilerman told Reuters. "Not being official government bodies, they can facilitate meetings and dialogues with people who would be wary of discussing things with government officials," he said.

Mr. Gilerman said he had met prominent Arab businessmen, including the president of the Saudi Chamber of Commerce, at international economic conferences and through his business in Europe and the United States.

He said his organisation favoured creation of a single economic entity incorporating Israel, Jordan and the occupied territories.

"There are a number of areas where we feel there can be cooperation and joint ventures between us and the Arabs in the territories, such as in the food, textile and cement industries, even the agricultural sector," he said.

"We have graduated from a more theoretical general exchange of views to what is today discussions in real terms of real projects," Mr. Gilerman said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jewish head urges German aid for peace pact

BOON (R) — Germany's top Jewish leader has urged Bonn to contribute heavily if Europe and the U.S. forged an economic aid package to shore up a peace deal between Israel and Palestinians. Ignatz Bubis, chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said the Middle East needed its own "Marshall Plan," the U.S. programme which funded the reconstruction of Western Europe after World War II. "The German government should take part in this kind of programme to the greatest possible extent," Mr. Bubis wrote in a commentary in the mass-circulation newspaper Bild am Sonntag. "I would help the economic reconstruction of Gaza and the West Bank and ease social tension by creating jobs." The United States, the European Community and the World Bank have said they are working on international funding plans to back up an agreement on Palestinian self-rule initiated last week by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The pact, giving autonomy to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, foresees global aid to bring housing, water supplies, electricity and roads up to acceptable levels after 26 years of stagnation under Israeli occupation.

Beirut paper publishes U.S. 'wanted' ads

BEIRUT (AP) — The Al Hayat daily has published an advertisement offering a \$2 million reward from the State Department for information leading to the arrest of a suspect in the World Trade Centre bombing. The Page-Size ad in Arabic showed two police men evacuating a woman wounded in the Feb. 26 New York bombing. The ad read: "Help us find the wanted terrorist before his hand reaches more innocent victims." It identified the suspect as Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, but did not list his nationality or age. The ad, believed to be the first such notice published in Arabic, urged informants to contact police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and any U.S. embassy. It also gave a telephone number in the United States and an address in Washington.

Milo to abstain in autonomy pact vote

TEL AVIV (AP) — Right-wing Likud Party deputy and former Police Minister Roni Milo has announced he would abstain when the Israeli parliament votes on the Palestinian autonomy agreement. "I think I will abstain. Getting out of Gaza is the right decision. The problem is the link with Jericho," said Mr. Milo, who is running for mayor of Tel Aviv. Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu has launched a campaign against the agreement and threatened not to honour it if elected prime minister. No date has been set for the vote in parliament which will only take place after the two sides sign the accord.

Rushdie asks for continued pressure on Iran

PRAGUE (AP) — Salman Rushdie, in the fourth year of hiding from Islamic fundamentalists, asked the world Sunday to pressure Iran to lift a death order proclaimed by the late Ayatollah Khomeini. The Indian-born writer, forced into seclusion after Ayatollah Khomeini pronounced his novel "Satanic Verses" blasphemous, spoke to reporters at the end of a confidential four-day visit to the Czech republic. The state news agency, said Mr. Rushdie met Thursday with the Czech republic's president, playwright Václav Havel, and joined a seminar on nationalism and racism in Libice, near Prague. Earlier, he told the Prague Post that his trip was part of a campaign to let the world know that he is no longer frightened of being assassinated. "I will not let terrorists dictate my behaviour any longer," he told the English-language weekly. "I am really not very scared of them." The Post said that Mr. Rushdie walked freely around the Czech capital Sunday, sightseeing, signing autographs, posing for tourist photos and taking a streetcar ride — his first on public transport since he went into hiding Feb. 14, 1989.

Bishop publicly flogged in Sudan

LONDON (AP) — The Archbishop of Canterbury said Monday he was distressed at the public flogging of an Anglican bishop in Sudan. The Rt. Rev. Peter Al' Bishir, suffragan bishop of Khartoum at Wad Medani in west Sudan, received 80 lashes to the back of his legs and upper back after he was found guilty of adultery. The punishment was in accordance with Islamic law. The bishop denied the charge, which was dismissed by a lower court, but he was found guilty by a higher court. Dr. George Carey, spiritual leader of the Anglican Church, said in a statement: "If the bishop is innocent, this is particularly barbaric and humiliating treatment." Dr. Carey said he was distressed by the punishment and would be "seeking clarification of the whole incident" from church officials in Sudan. The incident occurred some weeks ago and a spokesman for the archbishop said Dr. Carey was anxious to ascertain the facts before taking any further steps. Canon Timothy Biles, an Anglican rector from Britain who was on a private visit to Sudan when the flogging took place, said he had been "deeply shocked." The bishop of Salisbury, the Rt. Rev. John Baker, whose diocese has been linked with the Anglican province of Sudan for 20 years, was quoted as saying in the Times that the 80 lashes were "inhuman and degrading."

Filipinos threaten action over reporter case

RIYADH (AP) — Filipinos are threatening to stop using legal channels to send money home to their families if justice is not done in the case of a journalist who was beaten at the Philippines embassy. Filipinos in Saudi Arabia send billions of dollars home each year through regular banking channels. If instead they resorted to the "black market," it could hit the Manila government hard by depriving it of hard currency. The move would be part of a "civil disobedience campaign" to pressure the Manila authorities to investigate the beating of Edgar C. Cadano, Filipino community leader said in a petition. The 13 community leaders also presented a petition to the investigation team sent by the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs, calling for the removal of Ambassador Abraham Rasul. Mr. Rasul's son, Yusef Jawari Rasul, has been implicated in the Aug. 25 assault on Mr. Cadano, a Filipino reporter with the Jeddah-based Saudi Gazette. The beating occurred after Mr. Cadano wrote an article about the ambassador's dismissal of 32 teachers at an embassy-run school in Riyadh. Mr. Rasul and his wife, the influential Senator Santarina Rasul, have denied that their son was involved in the assault. Filipino community leaders also have accused the ambassador of hiring his own relatives to work at the embassy.

Jewish settlers fear their good life is over

By Barry Parker
Agence France Presse

ADAM, Occupied West Bank — Sima Toledano came looking for the good life in this Israeli settlement high in the hills overlooking the Jordan Valley.

Today her dream is over as the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) prepares to launch autonomy in Jericho and the Gaza Strip with the rest of the West Bank to follow.

The 31-year-old mother of two wants out. "We did not settle here for political reasons, we could not afford to buy our own home in Tel Aviv but in Adam it was much cheaper."

"The government used to help us with everything from low interest loans and cheap rents on the caravans to kindergartens for the kids."

But the right-wing Likud party lost the June 1992 elections, not long after the Toledano family moved into a small caravan on the edge of Adam with the intention of building a new house.

New Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin axed a whole range of financial incentives and the Toledanos only have their 42 square-metre rented caravan out by the settlement's barbed wire security fence.

They are considering approaching the housing ministry for help to re-locate back



A Palestinian boy tends his sheep outside the Jewish settlement of Adam near Jerusalem in the occupied West Bank (AFP photo)

inside Israel proper. "If the government will help us, sure I will leave now," said Ms. Toledano.

In the week since details of the autonomy plan emerged other settlers have already been in touch with the ministry, an official admitted Sunday.

Her sister Hanna Rubenstein, a 35-year-old nurse, rents a three-bedroom house in Adam with her chef husband and two children and is prepared to stay.

They too are "economic settlers" who wanted a better life,

not an ideological crusade, but all hope has now been lost of buying without government largesse.

However Ms. Rubenstein said: "If the government decides to evacuate the place, we are willing to go, but I like it here and I have no problems with the Palestinians."

"I voted Likud, but I'm willing to leave for peace."

Becher Vanan, mayor of Adam since he helped found the settlement in 1983, refuses even to talk about evacuation of any of the 100 families. "I believe my three children

will build their own houses here just like me," he said defiantly.

"I will fight if I have to, I will fight with my bare hands but I will not use arms. Jews will never shoot Jews."

Yamin Swissa, managing director of Prazot, a housing ministry offshoot which houses immigrants and the poor, said: "Numerous settlers have contacted us in recent days wanting to return to Israel proper if we can find them homes."

"They are not extreme right-wingers, they support the

peace process and want to hold out a hand to peace."

Most inquiries had come from Kinyat Arba near Hebron and one from Bet El north of Ramallah.

"The previous government encouraged them to go to the territories and now this government has to find some answers for these people. Not many people will want to live under autonomy and a Palestinian police force," he predicted.

However, a spokesman for the settlers' council doubted more than a handful of the 120,000 settlers would quit. He refused the classification of "economic settlers," whom housing ministry officials estimate at about half the total.

"We are talking about 30,000 Jewish families living in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip," said Bob Lang. "Say 100 families leave that is not a big deal."

"When the intifada started nearly six years ago there was a big frenzy as it was aimed at forcing us out."

"What happened? A handful of people left but tens of thousands more have joined us. In Eilat, where I live, two families left, but 600 more came."

"I live here because it's a great place to live. I'm a Jew and as a Jew I have a right to live here."

But he admitted the future remained uncertain.

Egypt's mainline clerics — radical or good Muslims?

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuters

CAIRO — Sheikh Mohammad Al Ghazali is an establishment Egyptian cleric who studied at the state-funded Al Azhar University.

So when he testified at the trial of militants accused of killing anti-fundamentalist writer Farag Foda and said anyone who resisted Islamic law was an apostate who could be killed by the state or, failing that, by pious Muslims, people's ears pricked up.

"The testimony of Ghazali is that of someone who wants to see the secularists eliminated," Bahaeddin Hassan, secretary general of the Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights (EOHR), told Reuters.

"It means the blood of any-

one who opposes the application of the Sharia (Islamic law) can be spilled by any Muslim."

Secular intellectuals worry that establishment clerics are promoting much the same vision of a strict Islamic state as the militants who are the government's most dangerous enemies.

The militants, who want to rid Egypt of Western influences, have attacked tourists and security personnel, causing the near collapse of Egypt's vital tourist industry and provoking a tough crackdown by the government.

Establishment clerics and scholars have vast influence in this country of 58 million people. Many of them hold government-paid jobs, write in state-owned newspapers and appear on state television.

And yet they have sanctified killing heretics and blocked promotion of secular academics. Al Azhar Mosque and university even orders the confiscation of books — religious and otherwise — deemed to be anti-Islamic.

"They (the scholars) are employed by the government but they are helping the other side," Egyptian sociologist Saadeddine Ibrahim told Reuters.

"Their behaviour is ambivalent. In one way they condone the use of violence and they never come out against the ultimate end that these movements are seeking — the application of Sharia law in Egypt."

They support fundamentalist ideas but they are reluctant soldiers. They are in uniform

but they are reluctant to shoot."

Establishment scholars deny the charge.

"Al Azhar is the school of moderation," said Karam Shalabi, an Al Azhar teacher.

"None of the trends of extremism that have surfaced in the Egyptian society have included any elements from Al Azhar, or only very few."

Al Azhar is one of the castles that has protected Egypt and the Arab World from extremism," he said.

The beliefs of establishment scholars are crucial to the battle between different Islamic trends and between Islam and secularism for the hearts and minds of Egypt's people.

Upwards of 10,000 men and women graduate every year from Al Azhar University,

established along with the mosque in 969 A.D. Many are recruited by the ministries of religious affairs and education and by state-run mosques.

Secular intellectuals reproach the government for failing to denounce statements such as Sheikh Ghazali's, saying inaction encourages establishment scholars to intervene in new areas of life.

They say Al Azhar scholars should have the right to censor only religious books but are intimidating the government by ordering its censors to ban political works, literature and poetry that they say blasphemes Islam.

"The government is being blackmailed by the Islamists. It is submitting to any order by Al Azhar so that it won't be

accused of being hostile to Islam," Mr. Hassan of the EOHR said.

"The state's institutions have become tools that implement without debating and reviewing Al Azhar orders. As soon as Al Azhar instructs the book committee that a novel is against Islam, it is immediately withdrawn," he added.

The secular intellectuals are a tiny minority in Egypt, where the bulk of the population is poor, uneducated and pious.

But their complaints highlight one of the government's most painful dilemmas: How to campaign against violent militants without criticising beliefs in strict Islam that are shared by some of the most respected religious scholars in the country?

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Onomias
18:30 A Comedy Series
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 People Next Door
21:00 Faces and Places
21:30 Doc. Voyager
22:00 News in English
22:30 Great Performances

PRAYER TIMES

04:50 Fajr
06:00 Sunrise
12:34 Dhuhr
14:08 Asr
18:59 Maghrib
20:18 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 642590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 635411
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625258
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures will drop and weather will be fine with clouds appearing in the early hours of the day. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17 / 28
Aqaba 21 / 35
Deserts 20 / 34
Jordan Valley 15 / 32

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 28.7, Aqaba 36, Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al Ghoul 790730
Dr. Jamal Al Ja'bari 796460
Dr. Youssef Nasr 751144
Dr. Mahmoud Amir 888884
Fire pharmacy 661912
Fire pharmacy 676660
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Shmoukhi pharmacy 644945
Shmoukhi pharmacy 637660
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Shuqairi 246140
Alquds pharmacy (-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Abdul Karim Khushashnah 983023

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 658980
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 777013
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 661115
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 632101
Repairs 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 660100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussain Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malha, J. Amman 664164/6
Palestine, Shmoukhi 664111/4
Shmoukhi Hospital 845845
University Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdull 664164/6
Al-Ahli, Abdull 777013/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 775111/26
Army, Marfa 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 666100
Amal Hospital 674133
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)90560
Jbn Sina Hospital (09)980332
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)99990
IRBID:
Phonon Banaa Hospital (02)27235
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)77225

Ria Al Nafes Hospital (02)34700
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

"This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)3200-5, where it should always be verified."

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:30 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
08:30 Damascus (RJ)
08:30 Dhahran (RJ)
09:45 Athens (RJ)
10:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:35 London (RJ)
17:55 Frankfurt (RJ)
18:00 Cairo (RJ)
20:25 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
20:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

15:30 Riyadh (SU)
17:45 Dubai (AZ)
01:00 Bucharest (RO)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 600/500
Banana 600
Banana (Mukannas) 420
Beans 600 / 500
Cabbage 170 / 100
Carrot 300/200
Cauliflower 280 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 180 / 100
Eggplant 180 / 90
Fig 300 / 200
Garlic 800 / 600
Grapes 320/40
Onion 600 / 380
Lemon 250 / 180
Marrow (large) 200 / 100
Marrow (small) 350 / 200
Melon 120 / 60
Okra 750/600
Onion (dry) 210 / 160
Peas 600/400
Pepper (hot) 200 / 140
Pepper (sweet) 200 / 140
Potato 350 / 280
Tomato 140 / 90
Sweet nation 240/180
Watermelon 150/100

Egyptian writer pursues beliefs despite extremists' threats

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Although he says he has no fears and keeps reassuring himself, Egyptian writer Nasser Hamed Abu Zeid recognises that his life could come to an end at any moment at the hands of an extremist.

Dr. Abu Zeid, an associate professor at Cairo University's Faculty of Arabic Language and Literature, believes that whatever action extremists might take against him, they would never dissuade him from expressing his beliefs.

Threats launched against him by what he believes are some Islamist factions, started, according to Dr. Zeid, earlier this year following the Cairo University's decision to deny him a promotion to full professorship. The associate professor, who has submitted 13 literary works including six books and seven studies, was denied promotion based on the report of one of the scientific committee members responsible for evaluating his work.

The report, which claims that Dr. Abu Zeid's works necessitate "reconsideration and refinement," was submitted by Abdul Sabour Shahin, a well-known Islamist preacher at Omar Ben Al Khattab Mosque in Cairo.

In his report, Dr. Shahin criticised Dr. Abu Zeid's writings and labelled them as incompetent. In his analysis of Dr. Abu Zeid's book entitled "Critique of Religious Discourse," Dr. Shahin questions the author's method of analysis and contends that his attack on the science of the unknown is conducted "in a strange manner."

"The researcher makes out of the science of the unknown a superstition and a fairytale — though the (science of the unknown) is the basis of faith," maintains Dr. Shahin in his report.

He goes on to question the motives behind Dr. Abu Zeid's great enthusiasm for Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses," claiming that Dr. Abu Zeid "didn't read it and does not know the extent of decadence that stems from this apostate atheist (Salman Rushdie)." "He seems to ignore intellectual integrity when he places Salman Rushdie's (controversial novel) on the same level of Naguib Mahfouz's stand in his novel 'Awlad Haratina'."

Dr. Shahin concludes his argu-



Nasser Hamed Abu Zeid
ment on the book by saying "we might go on talking without achieving any tangible result as it is the case in the book that leads to nowhere."

The university seconded Dr. Shahin's report and thus denied Dr. Abu Zeid's promotion. Attempts exerted by the professor to refute the university's decision ended in failure when the court turned down his appeal to contest the university's decision.

For the professor, the battle of ideology began at this point. Dr. Abu Zeid's sympathisers came to his defence by condemning the university's decision, and appealing for his right of expression.

Islamists moved swiftly in a counter-campaign, attacking what they portrayed as Dr. Abu Zeid's sarcasm of the Prophet's Tradition and of the Prophet's Companions.

Shortly after, a group of Islamist lawyers filed several lawsuits against Dr. Abu Zeid accusing him of atheism, paganism and apostasy. Among the numerous cases currently on file is one that calls for his separation from his wife on the basis that a Muslim woman should not cohabit with an apostate.

"They can prevent me from writing, they can ban my publications, but the most important thing is that they do not succeed in scaring me," Dr. Abu Zeid told the Jordan Times.

"I have received numerous messages in which they threatened to kill me, but I am not afraid... if the critical mind gives way to fear, it ceases to be critical."

Dr. Abu Zeid repeatedly emphasised that he has no fears. He said that if he lost his battle and were forced to leave the university, he would pursue his career as a writer and as a critical

analyst outside the university. "The battle is not over Islam as such," he said. "It is over social and political stands."

"I stand against politicising Islam, but still I defend religion," he added. "Islamic parties are political parties... why don't they speak the political languages?"

Dr. Abu Zeid argues that the Islamic parties use Islamic Sharia to stifle off any attempt at enhancing dialogue between political parties or promoting understanding of Koranic scripts. He believes that what Islamists are doing is in fact taking decisions and passing judgments in the name of God. They are the ones who decide which issues are to be discussed and which ones are "taboo," he says. If they do not agree with the arguments of any thinker or writer they declare him/her an apostate, said Dr. Abu Zeid.

"We should for once let the Islamists take power by way of democracy," Dr. Abu Zeid said last week in one of two lectures delivered at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Amman. "We should abandon the argument that says that if Islamists take over, it is the near end to democracy... if our people choose the Islamists, let them have them, and let's wait and see what happens afterwards," he said to an overcrowded hall of around 300 people, where extremist Islamists were noticeably absent at the lecture.

"Islam is the solution" will continue to be the deprived fruit that people would want to taste," he said. "Those who are preaching and prophesying the negative implications of an Islamist take-over are only the elite who think they are fighting for a better future for Arab societies... but such intellectuals should work to influence people rather than impose their beliefs on them."

Calling for what he sees as a directly needed critical discourse and democratic dialogue, Dr. Abu Zeid predicts that heated debate will take another course at the commencement of the first semester at Cairo University.

Until Nov. 4, the deadline for the supreme arbiter on Islamic affairs in Egypt's Azhar Mosque to pass judgement on whether the Islamist lawyers are to pursue their cases against Dr. Abu Zeid in court, the professor has resigned himself to "studying this phenomenon."

"I think I am not alone... I think I have supporters inside and outside the university," he said optimistically.

Minister confirms 10 typhoid cases, but says there is no need for concern

By Ella Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Of the 72 cases admitted so far to Al Inan Hospital in Ajloun over the past 10 days, only 10 are confirmed positive typhoid cases as proved by laboratory culture tests, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas announced Monday.

Dr. Malhas told the Jordan Times that he himself visited the Ajloun area Monday morning and examined the patients under treatment at the hospital.

He said "the 72 cases were all treated as typhoid cases on purely clinical grounds, although the culture tests on them proved that only 10 patients had typhoid."

"The hospital is now treating 31 fever cases including the 10

with typhoid, and most of them are expected to be discharged in two to three days," said the minister.

"As soon as the first of the fever cases was admitted to hospital on Aug. 28, there were clinical doubts that typhoid was the cause of the fever, but culture tests conducted on samples of stool, blood and urine taken from all the 72 patients resulted in 10 positive typhoid cases only," said Dr. Malhas.

The minister said the health authorities are taking every precaution to prevent the spread of the disease, stressing that health teams are working diligently to discover the direct cause of the typhoid cases.

He said, however, that two

cases of fever Monday were admitted to Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid and are being treated similarly to the Ajloun cases as they are suspected to be typhoid cases as well.

Saying that typhoid is an endemic disease in Jordan, Dr. Malhas said the fever cases generally flare up in summer, when water is scarce and vegetables and fruits are not sufficiently cleaned before consumption.

"Normally, typhoid involves a two to three-week incubation period and so these cases must have started during the heat wave that affected Jordan in the past month," added the minister.

"Our health teams are now taking samples of water from different areas and springs, as

well as from icecream, eggs, chicken and the stool, blood and urine of persons who came in contact with the proved typhoid patients, in order to determine the source of the illness," continued Dr. Malhas.

In order to reach a final result, the health authorities need between two to three months during which cultures on samples including food and beverages are tested; Dr. Malhas explained.

The minister concluded by saying that there was no cause for worry or concern as the health authorities have everything under control.

He said precautionary measures are being taken not only in the Ajloun area, but throughout the Kingdom.



Abdul Rahim Malhas

Industries save considerably by using locally produced materials — experts

AMMAN (Petra) — Until recently most of the primary materials used in Jordanian industry were imported from abroad, but the situation has changed considerably because many of these materials are now produced locally at a significant saving to Jordan, according to Rawhi Al Sharif, chairman of the committee that prepared the pan-Arab conference that opened at the University of Jordan Monday.

By opting for locally produced materials, Jordanian industries are able to reduce their costs, create new jobs for Jordanian workers and save the country hard currency, said Mr. Sharif at the conference, organised to discuss the use by Arab states of locally produced materials in industries.

Mr. Sharif, an engineer, urged caution when using these materials in order to protect the environment from pollution adding that many of these materials such as paper and glass can be recycled.

The conference, which was organised by the University of Jordan's Engineering and Technology Faculty in cooperation with the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA),

was opened by University President Fawzi Gharaibeh.

That this conference is hosted by the university reflects its intention to interact with local organisations and build bridges of cooperation with the industrial sector to develop Jordan, said Dr. Gharaibeh.

The rapid consumption of materials because of intensive use in industry and other sectors calls for investments in projects designed to help sound and rational extraction of primary materials, added the university president.

He said this practice is paramount since Jordan and most developing countries have been relying on industrialised nations to supply them with basic commodities.

JEA President Hosni Abu Ghaida said the national industries need support in order to generate new industries depending on local materials.

A total of 100 delegates representing companies, factories and other institutions in Iraq, Yemen, Syria, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Palestine and Jordan are taking part in the four-day meeting.



University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh (second from left), flanked by Jordan Engineers Association President Hosni Abu Ghaida (left) and Rawhi Al Sharif, chairman of a conference preparatory committee Monday address the opening of a pan-Arab conference on using locally produced materials in industry.

factory committee Monday address the opening of a pan-Arab conference on using locally produced materials in industry.

The 32 working papers which are to be reviewed at the conference discuss the use of locally produced materials in

industry, quality control, transfer of modern technology, recycling of used materials and many other issues concerning

industry. An exhibition of national industries is being held on the sideline of the conference.

Culture minister calls for using Arabic in university education

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein Monday, Minister of Culture Mohammed Al Samra called for using Arabic in university education and in all specialisations.

The Arab Nation can never succeed in creating its own cultural identity except through its national language, and therefore it is incumbent on the Arab states to adopt Arabic as the language of education at their universities, said the minister at the opening of a seminar called to discuss unified terminology and the use of Arabic in education.

A student can absorb far greater knowledge in his/her own language than in other languages and this perhaps was the reason that motivated UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation)

to recommend that education must basically be conducted in one's mother tongue, Dr. Samra said.

Arab states have so far failed on developing unified terminology and subsequently failed to adopt Arabic as the language of teaching and education at their universities, noted the minister.

He said benefitting from the Arab heritage, applying what has been recommended by specialists and introducing Arabised terms close in form and expression to the Arabic language can help students pursue their studies in their mother tongue.

The minister's call for Arabising the terms and adopting unified terms for all universities was echoed by Abdul Karim Khalifa, president of the Jordan Academy of Arabic (JAA).

The adoption of Arabic in education is essential for the Arab Nation, which is exposed to various cultural currents from the east and west, as well as an intellectual and language invasion, said Dr. Khalifa.

Noting that the JAA was striving to encourage the Arabisation of scientific terms, Dr. Khalifa said this effort should be backed at the national and pan-Arab levels.

The seminar was organised by the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO) in cooperation with the JAA in Amman.

According to the organisers, the seminar is a follow up to a seminar which was held in Rabat in 1981 to discuss Arabisation of scientific terms at Arab universities.

Arafat arrives in Oman today

(Continued from page 1)

plying U.N. Security Council resolutions, imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The GCC meeting had issued a communiqué on Sunday welcoming the draft accord as "a first step on the path to a just, durable and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian cause and Arab-Israeli conflict."

The GCC members overcame doubts about the accord after prodding by Washington, the key sponsor of the Middle East peace talks, a GCC source told AFP.

Diplomats said economic revival in the poverty-stricken Gaza Strip was essential to help prevent an outbreak of violence between supporters and opponents of the agreement.

The PLO chief was due to fly to Salalah, 1,000 kilometres south of the Omani capital of Muscat, where he would brief Sultan Qabus on his autonomy deal with Israel.

"We support this agreement," UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan said during talks on Sunday with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who has criticised the peace deal.

"We will accept what the Palestinians accept," Sheikh Zayed added. "They know their interests better and they should take their own decisions."

admitted that the significance of the secret meetings of Norway had eluded U.S. intelligence.

The chief U.S. mediator in the talks, Dennis Ross, who has opposed PLO involvement in the peace talks and pressed for Palestinian representation by those in the occupied territories, has deliberately downplayed the significance of the secret diplomacy.

Syria and Lebanon said Monday they saw no new progress on their own problems with Israel despite the Israel-PLO accord.

After briefing Lebanese President Elias Hrawi in Beirut, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa was asked by reporters whether Syria would be able to agree on a declaration of principles with Israel during the current 11th round of talks in Washington.

Sunday, Mr. Christopher Clinton urged Arabs

(Continued from page 1)

nied that Mr. Clinton had been tardy in reacting to the latest development. "It's unfair to say that the White House has been slow," he said. "We have tremendous credit to the Israelis and the PLO for having moved ahead."

The Israeli-Palestinian bilateral talks in Washington were upstaged by last week's announcement of the agreement reached secretly between PLO and Israeli negotiators in Norway.

Critics like the New York Times said Monday that "for the moment, the Clinton administration is playing more the role of a protocol chief than of the 'honest broker,'" envisioned by (Secretary of State Warren) Christopher early in the administration.

Sunday, Mr. Christopher

admitted that the significance of the secret meetings of Norway had eluded U.S. intelligence.

The chief U.S. mediator in the talks, Dennis Ross, who has opposed PLO involvement in the peace talks and pressed for Palestinian representation by those in the occupied territories, has deliberately downplayed the significance of the secret diplomacy.

Syria and Lebanon said Monday they saw no new progress on their own problems with Israel despite the Israel-PLO accord.

After briefing Lebanese President Elias Hrawi in Beirut, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa was asked by reporters whether Syria would be able to agree on a declaration of principles with Israel during the current 11th round of talks in Washington.

Sunday, Mr. Christopher

Beilin suggests Jerusalem self-rule

(Continued from page 1)

The question would be negotiated with the Palestinians, he said.

Mr. Shabtal scoffed at figures of 20,000-30,000 Palestinian police hired Friday by Faisal Hussein, the leading Palestinian in the occupied territories.

The minister pointed out that Israel had fewer than 20,000 police to patrol the territories — where two million Palestinians live — as well as Israel with a population of 5.2 million people.

"Joint policing"

Israel is looking to the Franco-

British condominium of the New Hebrides as a police role model once Palestinian autonomy starts, Mr. Shabtal said.

"I tried to find any other country where there was the same situation and believe it or not there was a tiny place near Australia," Mr. Shabtal told a press conference.

Israel wants joint patrols in the occupied territories once the Palestinians have established their own police force. Israelis in the territories will remain under Israeli jurisdiction.

Refugees freeze construction in camps

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

BAQA'A — Land prices around Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan are plummeting and building has come to a standstill over news of an imminent PLO-Israeli self-rule deal.

"Since Thursday, I have received no construction request from any refugee here," a government official in charge of Baqa'a camp, Jordan's largest camp housing 100,000 refugees from key Arab-Israeli wars, told Reuters Monday.

"On average, we used to get between 15 to 20 applications a day in summer. But people have now frozen new construction plans because they are waiting to see what the deal will bring for them," added the official, who requested anonymity.

"They are all convinced that

any move will affect them in one way or another by either giving them compensation or allowing them to return."

Estate agents said the price of land around camps fell from around JD 6,000 a dunum to JD 4,500 recently because of falling demand.

Under the deal announced a week ago, Palestinians will get almost full self-rule over the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, later extending to the rest of the occupied areas.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials have raised the hopes of refugees by saying the deal allows for the return of 800,000 Palestinians who fled the 1967 war, most of them ended up in Jordan. But Israel says the deal makes no such mention.

The package delays talk about a solution for three million Palestinian refugees who fled their homes shortly after Israel

was born from the 1948 war, raising fears they will be permanently settled in the diaspora.

"All those who wanted to add rooms to existing homes or to build new ones have now stopped because they say maybe we can return and build something there," said Abdul Qader Qawasm, a camp grocer from the West Bank town of Herbron.

"Even kids are saying they want to go back, everyone is optimistic in the camp."

Jordan has nearly 1.072-million U.N. registered refugees, a quarter of them living in 10 refugee camps spread across the Kingdom.

Unlike other Arab states who have not given Palestinian refugees any civil rights for fear they might stay indefinitely, most refugees in Jordan hold Jordanian passports and have full citizenship rights.

Exports group to participate in Casablanca, Afro-Arab fairs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) is preparing for the Kingdom's participation in the Casablanca Trade Fair this month and in the first Afro-Arab fair in Tunis later this year.

The announcement was made Tuesday by JEDCO Director Mohammad Bani Hani who said that participation in trade fairs abroad, together with the work of trade centres in different countries, was earning the Kingdom an average of \$40 million annually.

JEDCO, which was founded in 1972, has so far organised Jordan's participation in 12 interna-

tional fairs and three specialised industrial fairs outside the country, said Dr. Bani Hani.

He said a total of 989 Jordanian firms took part in these fairs.

Dr. Bani Hani said JEDCO now has permanent trade centres in Russia, Morocco, Tuois, Libya, Egypt, Sudan and the U.S. These, he said, promote the sale of Jordanian products in foreign markets.

The trade centres' task is to familiarise the public in different countries with Jordan's products, to contact commercial chambers of commerce abroad and market Jordanian-made goods, said Dr. Bani Hani.

JEDCO has been cooperating

closely with the Jordan Trade Association (JTA) and the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Industry and Trade in the Kingdom, he added.

In addition, JEDCO continues to offer free services to visiting business delegations in contacting Jordanian firms, he said.

Ali Dajani, advisor to the Amman Chamber of Industry said that the chamber participates in all the fairs held in the Kingdom and abroad.

He said the Amman Chamber also maintains a permanent fair of industrial products in the government's office to orient the Jordanian public on the types of Jordanian goods available.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent congratulates King of Swaziland

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday sent a cable of good wishes to the king of Swaziland on his country's national day. The Regent wished the king continued health and happiness and his country continued progress.

Parliamentary team to attend meeting in Canberra

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation is leaving Wednesday for Canberra, Australia to attend the 90th meeting of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), due to open on Sept. 12. The delegation will be led by Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Lawzi who will deliver Jordan's address to the conference featuring a number of developments in the regional and international arenas. The IPU meeting is expected to discuss a host of topics like the International Humanitarian Law, supporting efforts to end armed conflicts, issues pertaining to human rights, and the health of the elderly. Mr. Lawzi will be accompanied by a four-member team from the Upper House of Parliament.

24 candidates to run for Madaba municipality

MADABA (Petra) — Arrangements are underway in Madaba, south of Amman, for holding municipal elections on Sept. 12. Twenty four candidates are running for the 10 member council to serve for the next two years according to Hashem Faouri, Madaba district governor. He

said a total of 20,271 citizens in the town of Madaba are eligible to vote.

Trade ministry approves 23 projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade has approved 23 economic projects and granted them exemptions as described in a law on encouraging investments in the country. A ministry statement said that these projects will involve investment of JD 20.5 million and will create 1,037 new jobs. It said that the projects involve the production of ceramics, textiles, plastic and food industries in addition to the construction of hospitals and hotels.

Petra agency to start 24-hour service

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan News Agency, Petra, announced Monday that it will start a 24-hour service as of Tuesday, transmitting news in Arabic and English. A Petra statement said that the move was needed in light of the rapid developments in the region and their effect on Jordan economically, politically and socially.

JD90.7m collected in income taxes

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax Department collected JD90,718,185 from taxpayers in the first eight months of 1993, according to Mansour Haddadin, the department director. He said according to the 1993 fiscal budget, the estimated total collection for this year will amount to JD120 million, noting that 75 per cent of this amount has already been collected.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Egyptian artist H. Bicar at the Balqa' Art Gallery in Fuhais.
- ★ Thirty paintings by Amour Onis and Salam Kanan at the Alfa Art Gallery.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by artists Mohammad Al Ameri and Ghassan Abu Lehan at the Royal Cultural Centre.

- ★ New art gallery, "Darat Al Fuuma," of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation. Programme includes the permanent exhibition and the "Chair" exhibition in Jabal Lwaidbeh.
- ★ Exhibition by Syrian artist Nadhir Isma'il at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshebia Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
صباح الخير، يومنا العربي سيبقى مستقلاً تماماً بالاعتماد على المؤسسات الصحفية الأردنية

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Campaign's just beginning

ON SATURDAY, the Traffic Department began a campaign against motor vehicles that are poisoning the atmosphere and causing harm to citizens' health and property.

In the long-awaited drive to reduce pollution resulting from fuel consumption in cars, police started what was billed as a major enforcement action to make sure that the some 300,000 automobiles operating in the country do not add to our environmental woes. This hopefully means that all violators will be stopped by traffic personnel and issued summons to fix their cars.

This is a good beginning, although a more propitious start could be initiated at the annual licensing procedure. Instead of checking only on car lights and brakes, before issuing a new auto licence, an adequate examination of engines and mufflers to determine their worthiness can also be introduced. Part and parcel of this concern must be the quality of the fuel that is still marketed locally. But first and foremost diesel powered engines must be either outlawed or curtailed to absolute minimum. They are the main source of the black smoke that is suffocating the people and damaging their atmosphere. The Jordanian refinery must be called upon to improve the gasoline that it produces. Lead free and low sulphur fuel must be the main car fuel in the country.

The authorities must adopt such a policy if they are truly genuine about their care for the health of Jordanians and the air they breathe. Must we wait for another decade or more before we catch up with other nations of the world in this field? It is absolutely necessary to deal with this aspect of the problem here and now.

But the main concern is to enforce the present well-known guidelines effectively. Stiff fines are absolutely necessary in order to drive home the message that henceforth the government will not be lax in controlling pollution, especially by cars. And until the streets and roads are expanded to cope with the increasing number of cars into the country, there must be new guidelines for import of vehicles in the country.

Many part of Jordan, especially Amman, have witnessed the abrupt arrival of hundreds of thousands of Jordanians in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis. With them also came thousands of vehicles. At a time when the transportation infrastructure in the Kingdom was made to handle the local number of automobiles, the sudden arrival of additional motor vehicles on an unexpected scale taxed the capacity of Jordan to the maximum and added more sources of pollution to the atmosphere. The country therefore needs a policy on the number of cars that it can cope with, without undue damage to life and environment, on the basis of existing capabilities. Above all, new cars, whether imported directly or accompanying newly arrived people, must be double-checked to make certain that they meet the legal requirements. Otherwise, it will be a free for all affair, from which everybody will lose and suffer.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE AUSTRIAN president's visit to Jordan was a good opportunity for King Hussein and the Austrian leader to exchange views about regional affairs and boost ties between the two friendly nations, said Al Dustour daily Monday. Developments in the Middle East region figured high on the agenda of the two leaders who support peace based on justice and support the rights of the Palestinians, said the daily. King Hussein told reporters that in light of the Israeli-Palestinian deal nothing can delay progress towards a just and honourable agreement, added the daily. Jordan has taken time to ensure that the Palestinians guarantee their rights first, before taking a step forward to reach an agreement of its own, added the daily. King Hussein has made it clear before the press Sunday and in the presence of the Austrian president that Jordan will not abandon its support for the Palestinian people no matter what decision they might take concerning their future, the paper continued. It said that Jordan will no doubt continue to provide assistance to the Palestinians and will shoulder its nationalist role in enabling the Palestinians manage their own affairs and shoulder their own responsibilities. One can see Jordan's open and firm stand, said the paper, in the words of King Hussein who has stressed his support for the Palestinian agreement on autonomy rule.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily tackled the question of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab lands, describing them as time-bombs ready to explode in the face of the Palestinians. Mahmoud Rimawi said that the PLO has the right to negotiate with the Israelis over the autonomy rule, but one can only express fear about the future status of the Jewish settlements that dot the occupied Arab lands, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Under the Palestinian-Israeli deal, these settlements will remain and continue to thrive under the guard and protection of the Israeli forces, as the leaders of the Israeli government have stressed recently, added the writer. He said that the Israeli government has been saying that since Palestinian Arabs continue to live amidst the Israelis in the lands occupied since 1948, the Jewish settlements have all the right to settle amidst the Arab population in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. While we can not object to the Israeli-Palestinian deal, especially if it constitutes a first step towards the end of occupation of Arab land held since 1967, we can only express fear that the Israelis might transform the Palestinian people into residents resembling the inhabitants of South Africa's townships, with no rights and probably worse treated.

The View from Fourth Circle

Transition from shared savagery to a humanistic future

By Rami G. Khouri

I HAVE strongly supported the PLO-Israeli agreement on a declaration of principles for peace, including the Gaza-Jericho first plan from the moment it was revealed, because I am firmly convinced that it contains the seeds for a historic turnaround in the Arab-Israeli conflict. I am particularly struck by two aspects of the debate surrounding the agreement: the bankruptcy of the classical Arab rejectionist arguments against the accord, and the unusual but refreshing vigour with which the PLO and the Israeli government seem to be working in parallel for the same goal.

I have carefully followed all the Palestinian and other Arab arguments against the accord, and I would suggest that most of them seem to reflect the sad, sullen fears of decades past, and the psychological consequences of nearly a full century of Arab defeat and humiliation. Most of the arguments against the accord (the status of Jerusalem is not dealt with, the Zionist settlements stay in place, Israel retains overall security controls, Palestinian self-government is geographically and substantively limited, the Palestinians will engage in civil war, the Israelis will maintain Gaza and Jericho as permanent Bantustans, the Israelis will use the self-governing Palestinian territories as conduits to flood the Arab World with Israeli exports) are simplistic, emotional, conjectural and, I would bet, almost certainly wrong.

The fact is that nobody knows what will happen as the accord is implemented and the process of de-Zionisation of parts of Palestine begins to unfold. It is true that many aspects of the accord are vague, but this vagueness is necessary to achieve Palestinian national rights in the future. The key conceptual element in this agreement is that in a transitional period, during which the Israelis, Palestinians and Arab states will get some but not all of their demands, a process of psychological détente will occur, eventually leading to political coexistence and mutual cooperation.

The transitional period is vital in order to start to reverse the cycle of mutual fear, hate and violence that has characterised Palestinian-Israeli relations since the advent of Zionist colonialism in Palestine in the late 19th century. The Israelis feel they can handle their military security, but what they really seek — indeed, crave — is acceptance in the Arab-Islamic Middle East. They are desperate to be accepted and recognised in this region, because they know from their own difficult history that they will not be allowed to develop a centre of Jewish culture and national identity in Europe or North America, where the majority of Jews live but where historically they suffered the most severe forms of anti-Jewish discrimination, denial and death.

A transitional period of time will allow Israelis and Palestinians to shift their psychological mode from fear and confrontation to coexistence and cooperation. It is totally unrealistic to expect the Israelis or the Arabs to give in to the other's demands all at once. Israel will return the occupied territories and accept some sort of shared jurisdiction for Jerusalem only at the end of a phased

transitional period during which it becomes clear that both sides accept the territorial and national rights of the other. Those Arabs who oppose the new accord fail to appreciate that the element of time, in this context, can be a positive factor for the Palestinians and other Arabs, if we approach the matter with deliberate self confidence and rationality, rather than our usual legacy of frenzied emotionalism and self-doubt.

All the points raised by the rejectionists (Jerusalem, settlements, etc.) will be dealt with at a later stage — a stage when Palestinians and Israelis will be able to recognise one another for what they really are: members of a single Semitic family that has always lived together in this region, and that has always drawn strength and priority from the fact of its cultural and religious pluralism. In today's atmosphere of fear, occupation and mutual political denial, the Israelis will never accept all Palestinian demands and the Arabs will never accept all Israeli demands. But three and four years from now, after it becomes clear that survival of Arabs and Israelis alike requires stability, mutual respect, economic cooperation and resource sharing, it will be easier to resolve the now knotty problems of Jerusalem, the settlements and security.

I believe it is a sign of strength, composure, realism, maturity and diplomatic skill for the PLO to have negotiated and to accept this agreement. By holding out to Israel the promise of the single most important thing it covets, and that it cannot achieve by arms or American money — acceptance by the Arabs — we can in turn achieve the goals that we have fought for during this entire century, i.e. containment of Zionism, definition of Israel's borders and the implementation of Palestinian national rights.

The pivotal element of time can be our ally, if we play our cards right. There is no shame in postponing the discussion of some key issues until a later date, when the political environment will be more conducive to resolution of those issues. For example, many people today see the settlements as necessary for Israel's security; but if the self-governing transition period goes well, in a few years' time the Israeli settlements will look to the world as an anachronistic symbol of colonial expansionism and an embarrassing legacy of post-19th century Zionist-imperial overreach. Most of the settlers will leave of their own free will, when they see the writing on the wall, or will accept a new status under Palestinian sovereignty.

A transitional process allows the Palestinians and Arabs to draw on our strengths of demographic weight, historical legitimacy, a tradition of cultural pluralism and international legal rights, while minimising the weaknesses that we have suffered in the last century when the Arab-Israeli conflict was waged in terms of military force and the diplomatic support of global powers.

Most important of all, however, is the element of mutual faith in the humanity and rationalism of Arabs and Israelis. The process of gradual Israeli withdrawal and phased achievement of

Palestinian rights will succeed if both sides overcome the 20th century's legacy of mutual demonisation. The Israelis are not scheming supermen and the Arabs are not terroristic killers, but this is how the majority on both sides view one another. The two peoples' psyches and political actions have been badly distorted as a result of their mutually negative experiences in the first half of the 20th century — the Israelis due to the Holocaust and the Arabs due to their national fragmentation, imperial exploitation, foreign colonisation, domestic, "autocratic" and socio-economic regression.

We, Arabs, have come to see ourselves as weak, vulnerable and pathetic, and we hide our shame behind a facade of exaggerated maximalist demands that are historically just but politically unrealistic. We demand everything at once, but we have achieved nothing by maintaining such maximalist demands. The Israelis, for their part, translate their fears and stresses into a two-pronged facade that also has lost its glitter — on the one hand they claim to enjoy a higher moral right to statehood and security because of their national Holocaust theology/chosen people mythology, and on the other hand they rely on brutal militarism to assure their security and their self-appointed special rights.

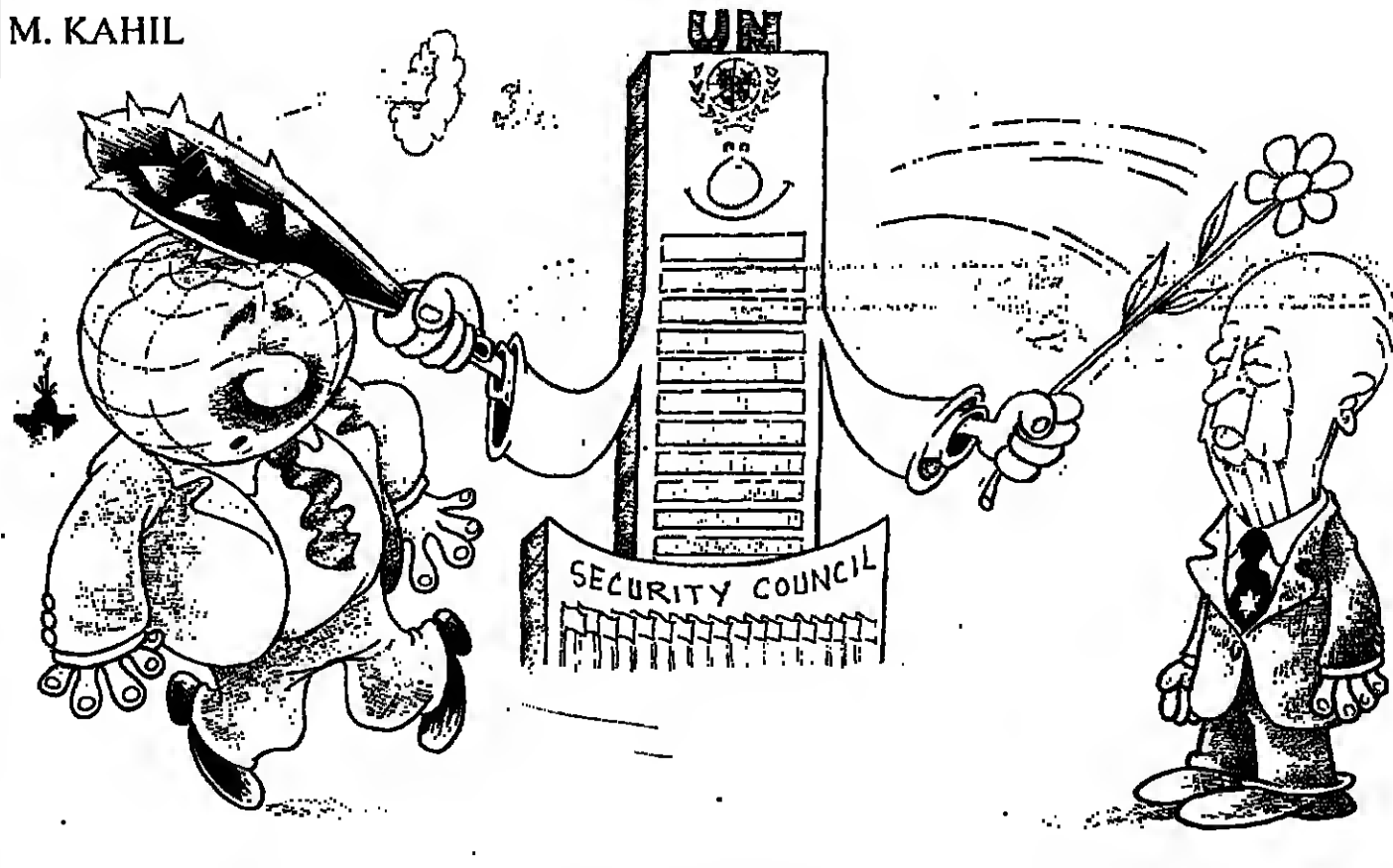
Both of these legacies have failed the test of time and the PLO-Israeli agreement is a brave and honest admission that the ways of the past are no longer valid. Both sides have to shed the mutually dehumanising perceptions that are the legacy of this cruel and contorted century and instead start to see the other as neighbour, partner, historical adjunct, economic complement and ancient Semitic cousin. This is already happening in the parallel political energy that the PLO and the Israeli government are exerting to make the agreement work.

The Israelis and Arabs are normal people who act abnormally because they have endured abnormal historical experiences this century. The transitional period envisaged in the PLO-Israeli accord will allow both people to reduce or even shed their historical fears and to recognise and embrace one another as partners in a broader Semitic epic that comprises the people of the entire Middle East. It is high time that we countered the extremist consequences of historical savagery by turning to the only antidote that can bring normality to our lives — our common humanity. Israelis and Palestinians are saying to one another: Let us rid ourselves of this mutual savagery and shed our fears, and let us do so through a process of mutual recognition, compromise, patience and adherence to international law and U.N. resolutions.

In my book, this is a triumph of humanism, realism and the politics of dignity. It should be applauded, supported and assisted to work in every possible way.

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M. KAHIL



The United Nations is no better than its members

By Flora Lewis

BINI CALAF, Minorca, Spain — When the United Nations was set up in San Francisco in 1945, the founders' paramount concern was to avoid repeating the fatal flaws of the League of Nations, launched with noble ideals after World War I and with not a whit of power to carry them out.

Hence the separation of function between the Security Council and the General Assembly, majority voting instead of the league's rule of unanimity, and the veto in the council recognising the reality of power. All states are not created equal. Still, for a long time, U.N. effectiveness was largely frustrated by the cold war.

Recently, Secretary-General Butros Ghali rightly pointed out that new possibilities, and new responsibilities, exist at last. But the complaints that states are harking at letting him run the show after they vote him the tasks of "coordinating" negotiations, aid, peacekeeping and the timing of approved military action.

"Multilateralism, the specialty of the U.N. system, is undermined by two kinds of ugly nationalism: ultranationalism and micronationalism." Certainly there is plenty to complain about — but no sign at all that more deference to the secretary-general's views would improve anything.

He is shifting blame, just as governments that do not want to risk effective action shift blame by pronouncing, "Let the U.N. do it."

Everybody can see that current

operations, particularly in Bosnia and Somalia, are a mess. True, as Mr. Ghali says, they are much more ambitious than what the United Nations attempted before.

In Somalia, the U.N. seeks to recreate a state that has crumbled out of existence, replaced by bandit gangs. That necessity was perfectly foreseeable. But there was neither planning nor explanation, which at least took place in Cambodia.

"Multilateralism, the specialty of the U.N. system, is undermined by two kinds of ugly nationalism: ultranationalism and micronationalism."

Sen Senator Robert Byrd has a point in noting that neither Congress nor American public opinion authorised the use of U.S. troops for this purpose when President George Bush's Operation Restore Hope was launched. I think the West Virginia senator is wrong in arguing that humanitarian aid is fine but that the United States should not be help-

ing prevent a relapse into conditions that made aid urgent, and that would perpetuate the need, just because the United Nations so resolved. I think he is right in putting it up to the Clinton administration to build support for a mission that its predecessor pretended would not be Washington's concern.

Mr. Byrd's insistence on clear and prior American decision in undertaking U.N. action seems to be what Mr. Ghali is aiming at when he decries "ultranationalism." He calls it nostalgia "for the years when one or a few big powers called all the shots," and a desire to see the United Nations "return to the relatively marginal role it played in years past."

None of all this gets to the point, just as none of the twittering about Bosnia drowns out the gunfire, massacre and human agony. Endless meetings, communiqués, big headlines examine exactly how many Serbian soldiers remain on Mount Igman above Sarajevo, whether or not Sarajevo remains under siege if artillery fire is held for a few days but people and goods still cannot move freely in and out. This is trivia, cover for indecision, shifting blame.

It now seems that all the weeks of noise about possible NATO air strikes if the siege were not lifted was just another way of using words to mask no deeds. Those words, that of the United Nations or of the NATO governments? They mumble and shuffle, drop the subject, and move on to ever more unrealistic proposals in the name of both recognising and

controversing "battlefield realism."

Given the undeniable failure to impose any political settlement, what on earth is this nonsense about the United Nations "administering" Sarajevo for two years, along with an assortment of tenuous corridors and byways which can only assure that it remains a trap?

What does Mr. Ghali think will be left to "coordinate"? At least big powers do exercise the will to get in or to get out of harm's way. His complaint should be not that they do not rely enough on the United Nations, but that they rely on it primarily for dithering. That may save conscience, but it does nothing.

As for "micronationalism," of course it is a menace to any hope for an orderly world, and every "ethnic or tribal faction" cannot expect what the secretary-general calls "the privileges of a sovereign nation-state" by violent secession from the state of which it forms a part.

But the remedy is not his aim of preserving "the nation-state as the very foundation of international life." It is accepting the duty to establish, and impose by force if necessary, rules for political settlement and minority protection that do not reward violence as the means to national goals, indeed, that punish its use.

The U.N. can only do what its members want. If they want this kind of world, they can get it. If they don't, they won't. The secretary-general's role is to remind them of that — International Herald Tribune.

LETTERS

Press and human rights

To the Editor:

I would like to impart with your readers some thoughts about press and human rights that I presented in a seminar in Portugal. In ancient times, rulers took particular care in choosing the official historians as key tools of mind manipulation. Today journalists produce a form of instantaneous history that often displeases some rulers while satisfying others. Journalists do not have the historians' perspective; though they are forced to issue judgements on important issues under the pressure of deadline.

In their haste they make mistakes and the victims of their errors tend to attribute bias to the perpetrators. We Arabs and Muslims, became victims of selective labelling and preconceived stereotyping by western news media, which are considered the most culpable party in creating an environment of hate against us. The media have misunderstood and misrepresented the facts and often acted as a mouthpiece for western authorities.

True, the human rights concept has not been adequately formulated in the Middle East so far. However, there is need for more action than rhetoric, in order to do that, and a global yardstick for these rights, far away from double standard, is needed too.

We certainly do not need more declarations; we need to implement the existing conventions on human rights.

Human Rights would be a meaningless concept to a person or a people unless they enjoy a sense of basic human dignity. The Palestinians, for instance, have been denied their rights due to Israeli occupation, which has been going on since 1948, one year after the issuance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We have recently seen so many violations of the sanctity of human rights in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Iraq, whose children and people suffer because of the economic boycott which violates the first human right: the right to life.

The West is deciding which U.N. resolution is worth implementing and which is not.

Human rights, if universally defined and equitably implemented, could become the catalyst that translates the common humanity of all cultures into principles that are accepted and respected by all states.

Human rights should be extended to include the right to self-determination of all peoples and freedom from occupation and racism. If human rights are to gain credibility in the South, they have to be applied uniformly.

We believe, as we have points of reference, that human rights could be misused as a pretext for intervention, as in the case of Iraq, or in the name of "humanitarian considerations." Until a more human and just world is built, journalists must strive to raise their awareness of human rights in a global manner. Journalists could function as a warning system, as opinion leaders, in promoting human rights within their own countries and beyond.

Governments and large commercial interests have already determined and got used to stereotype images they transmit through the controlled mass media and what shall be on the agenda of public discourse.

Functions of mass media in Third World countries vary from mobilisation, reconciliation, rationalisation to status quo promotion. The communication system in many countries is often run through the ministries of information that guide the press. Lack of freedom of the press is the main obstacle to promoting the concept of human rights in such countries. Here, it must be observed, journalists should have more training.

In many cases, the flow of information is a one-way, vertical process, between governments and people, if this remains so, alternate forms of communication will take place.

It is worth mentioning that the four big news agencies; Reuters, Agence France Presse (AFP), Associated Press (AP) and United Press International (UPI) inform 40 per cent of the world's population through western eyes and western values. The Third World countries are asking for more balanced flow of information. On the other hand, the growth of technology is not necessarily increasing the access of the people to information, an essential condition of true political liberation.

When people need to adapt to new concepts — like human rights — they frequently seek more information to help them. Therefore, more bridges must be built to let peoples in the developed and developing countries meet half-way. A new order of information is needed if we want to get into an age of inter-cultural communication. When this is not possible, cultural imperialism will only be inevitable.

Yahia Asad,
Editor,
Al Dustour,
Amman

Annexes to the PLO-Israel agreement

The text of the agreement was published in the Sept. 1, 1993, issue of the Jordan Times.

ANNEX I

Protocol on the mode and conditions of elections

1. Palestinians of Jerusalem who live there will have the right to participate in the election process, according to an agreement between the two sides.
2. In addition, the election agreement should cover, among other things, the following issues:
 - a. the system of elections;
 - b. the mode of the agreed supervision and international observation and their personal composition and
 - c. rules and regulations regarding election campaign, including agreed arrangements for the organising of mass media, and the possibility of licensing a broadcasting and TV station.
3. The future status of displaced Palestinians who were registered on June 4, 1967, will not be prejudiced because they are unable to participate in the election process due to practical reasons.

ANNEX II

Protocol on withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area

1. The two sides will conclude and sign, within two months from the date of entry into force of this Declaration of Principles, an agreement on the withdrawal of Israeli military forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area. This agreement will include comprehensive arrangements to apply in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area subsequent to the Israeli withdrawal.
2. Israel will implement an accelerated and scheduled withdrawal of Israeli military forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area, beginning immediately with the signing of the agreement on the Gaza Strip and Jericho area and to be completed within a period not exceeding four months after the signing of this agreement.
3. The above agreement will include, among other things:
 - a. arrangements for a smooth and peaceful transfer of authority from the Israeli military government and its civil administration to the Palestinian representatives,
 - b. structure, powers and responsibilities of the Palestinian

Vague Israel-PLO document requires leap of faith

By Paul Eadie
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) outline agreement on Palestinian self-rule is full of carefully vague phrases that even its supporters say it is a leap into the dark.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat declared once the document was public: "The Palestinian state is within our grasp. Soon the Palestinian flag will fly on the walls, the minarets and the cathedrals of Jerusalem."

Right-wing Israelis fear he is right: There is nothing in the 22 typed pages to stop a five-year interim period of self-rule leading to an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Palestinian critics of the agreement fear exactly the opposite. They worry there is nothing in the document to guarantee future Palestinian independence.

The fact is that the declaration of principles has been deliberately written to rule nothing in and rule nothing out.

Some of the most obvious plus and minus points for each side — and the most important ambiguities: — Israeli withdrawal:

Israel will withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho within seven months of the agreement being signed and will leave other populated areas in the West Bank within 10 months — a big plus for the Palestinians.

But nobody has defined "Jericho." It could be just the town or the whole surrounding area.

Palestinian council:

The Palestinians will elect a council with powers to make laws and run government in the spheres of education and culture, health, social welfare, direct taxation and tourism. Israel's military government and civil administration in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be dismantled. A qualified plus for the Palestinians — many want wider powers.

Security:

The Palestinians will set up a police force, recruited partly from PLO fighters from outside the West Bank and Gaza, to ensure public order among Palestinians. A big plus for the Palestinians, or at least the PLO.

Israeli forces will handle security from external threats, and protection and internal policing of the 100,000 Israeli settlers in the territories: A big plus for Israel.

Territorial jurisdiction:

The document says the council's authority will cover "West Bank and Gaza Strip territory, except for issues that will be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations: Jerusalem, settlements, military locations and Israelis." A vague point that is a plus for Israel and a fatal minus in the eyes of Palestinian critics of the deal.

Jerusalem:

The document does not say that the Palestinians will control East Jerusalem. But neither does it say the Palestinians will not control their part of the city.

A vague point that appears a fatal minus to Palestinian critics. But in practice, Palestinians already run East Jerusalem because five years of the intifada uprising has made it risky for Israelis to enter the area.

Israeli settlements:

These will remain in the interim period and there it is not clear whether their growth will be restricted. Israel has already allocated wide areas of land and expansion of settlements, particularly around East Jerusalem. A big minus for the Palestinians.

Displaced persons:

The agreement opens the way for the return to the West Bank and Gaza of 800,000 Palestinians who fled during the 1967 war, although it does not guarantee them the right to go back. A big plus for the Palestinians.

Permanent settlement agenda:

The agreement says talks on a permanent settlement can start immediately, not waiting for the third year of the interim period, and will cover issues vital to the Palestinians: Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, and borders. A plus for the Palestinians. But the phrasing of the agenda is vague — a plus for Israel.

authority in these areas, except: external security, settlements, Israelis, foreign relations and other mutually agreed matters, e. arrangements for the assumption of internal security and public order by the Palestinian police force consisting of police officers recruited locally and from abroad (holding Jordanian passports and Palestinian documents issued by Egypt). Those who will participate in the Palestinian police force coming from abroad should be trained as police and police officers,

d. a temporary international or foreign presence, as agreed upon,

e. establishment of a joint Palestinian-Israeli coordination and cooperation committee for mutual security purposes,

f. an economic development and stabilisation programme, including the establishment of an emergency fund, to encourage foreign investment and financial and economic support. Both sides will coordinate and cooperate jointly and unilaterally with regional and international parties to support these aims,

g. arrangements for a safe passage for persons and transportation between the Gaza Strip and Jericho area.

4. The above agreement will include arrangements for coordination between both parties regarding passages:

a. Gaza - Egypt and

b. Jericho - Jordan.

5. The offices responsible for carrying out the powers and responsibilities of the Palestinian authority under this Annex II and Article VI of the Declaration of Principles will be located in the Gaza Strip and in the Jericho area pending the inauguration of the council.

6. Other than these agreed arrangements, the status of the Gaza Strip and Jericho area will continue to be an integral part of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and will not be changed in the interim period.

ANNEX III

Protocol on Israeli-Palestinian cooperation in economic and development programmes

The two sides agree to establish an Israeli-Palestinian continuing committee for economic cooperation, focusing, among other things, on the following:

1. Cooperation in the field of water, including a water development programme prepared by experts from both sides, which will also specify the mode of cooperation in the management of water resources in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and will include proposals for studies and plans on water rights of each party, as well as on the equitable utilisation of joint water resources for implementation in and beyond the interim period.

2. Cooperation in the field of electricity, including an electricity development programme, which will also specify the mode of cooperation for the production, maintenance, purchase and sale of electricity resources.

3. Cooperation in the field of energy, including an energy development programme, which will provide for the exploitation of oil and gas for industrial purposes, particularly in the Gaza Strip and in the Negev and will encourage further joint exploitation of other resources. This programme may also provide for the construction of a petrochemical industrial complex in the Gaza Strip and the construction of oil and gas pipelines.

4. Cooperation in the field of finance, including a financial development and action programme for the encouragement of international investment in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and in Israel, as well as the establishment of a Palestinian development bank.

5. Cooperation in the field of transport and communications, including a programme which will define guidelines for the establishment of a Gaza sea port area and will provide for the establishing of transport and communications lines to and from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to Israel and to other countries. In addition, this programme will provide for carrying out the necessary construction of roads, railways, communications lines, etc.

6. Cooperation in the field of trade, including studies, and trade promotion programmes, which will encourage local, regional and inter-regional trade, as well as a feasibility study of creating free trade zones in the Gaza Strip and in Israel, mutual access to these zones and cooperation in other areas related to trade and commerce.

7. Cooperation in the field of industry, including industrial development programmes, which will provide for the establishment of joint Israeli-Palestinian industrial research and develop-

ment centres, will promote Palestinian-Israeli joint ventures, and provide guidelines for cooperation in the textile, food, pharmaceutical, electronics, diamonds, computer and science-based industries.

8. A programme for cooperation in, and regulation of, labour relations and cooperation in social welfare issues.

9. A human resources development and cooperation plan, providing for joint Israeli-Palestinian workshops and seminars and for the establishment of joint vocational training centres, research institutes and data banks.

10. An environmental protection plan, providing for joint and/or coordinated measures in this sphere.

11. A programme for developing coordination and cooperation in the field of communication and media.

12. Any other programmes of mutual interest.

ANNEX IV

Protocol on Israeli-Palestinian cooperation concerning regional development programmes

1. The two sides will cooperate in the context of the multilateral peace efforts in promoting a development programme for the region, including the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, to be initiated by the G-7. The parties will request the G-7 to seek the participation in this programme of other interested states, such as members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, regional and Arab states and institutions, as well as members of the private sector.

2. The development programme will consist of two elements: a) an economic development programme for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

b) a regional economic development programme.

A. The economic development programme for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will consist of the following elements:

(1) a social rehabilitation programme, including a housing and construction programme,

(2) a small and medium business development plan,

(3) an infrastructure development programme (water, electricity, transportation and communications, etc.),

(4) a human resources plan,

(5) other programmes.

B. The regional economic development programme may consist of the following elements:

(1) the establishment of a Middle East development fund, as a first step, and a Middle East development bank, as a second step,

(2) the development of a joint Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian plan for coordinated exploitation of the Dead Sea area,

(3) the Mediterranean Sea (Gaza) — Dead Sea Canal,

(4) regional desalination and other water development projects,

(5) a regional plan for agricultural development, including a coordinated regional effort for the prevention of desertification,

(6) interconnection of electricity grids,

(7) regional cooperation for the transfer, distribution and industrial exploitation of gas, oil and other energy resources,

(8) a regional tourism, transportation and telecommunications development plan,

(9) regional cooperation in other spheres.

3. The two sides will encourage the multilateral working groups and will coordinate towards its success. The two parties will encourage intersectoral activities, as well as pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, within the various multilateral working groups.

Agreed minutes to the Declaration of Principles on interim self-government arrangements

A. General understandings and agreements

Any powers and responsibilities transferred to the Palestinians

pursuant to the Declaration of Principles prior to the inauguration of the council will be subject to the same principles pertaining to Article IV, as set out in these agreed minutes below.

B. Specific understandings and agreements

Article IV

It is understood that:

1. jurisdiction of the council will cover West Bank and Gaza Strip territory, except for issues that will be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations: Jerusalem, settlements, military locations and Israelis,

2. The council's jurisdiction will apply with regard to the agreed powers, responsibilities, spheres and authorities transferred to it.

Article VI (2)

It is agreed that the transfer of authority will be as follows:

(1) the Palestinian side will inform the Israeli side of the names of the authorised Palestinians who will assume the powers, authorities and responsibilities that will be transferred to the Palestinians according to the Declaration of Principles in the following fields: education and culture, health, social welfare, direct taxation, tourism and any other authorities agreed upon,

(2) it is understood that the rights and obligations of these offices will not be affected,

(3) each of the spheres described above will continue to enjoy existing budgetary allocations in accordance with arrangements to be mutually agreed upon. These arrangements also will provide for the necessary adjustments required in order to take into account the taxes collected by the direct taxation office,

(4) upon the execution of the Declaration of Principles, the Israeli and Palestinian delegations will immediately commence negotiations on a detailed plan for the transfer of authority on the above offices in accordance with the above understandings.

Article VII (2)

The interim agreement will also include arrangements for coordination and cooperation.

Article VII (5)

The withdrawal of the military government will not prevent Israel from exercising the powers and responsibilities not transferred to the council.

Article VIII

It is understood that the interim agreement will include arrangements for cooperation and coordination between the two parties in this regard. It is also agreed that the transfer of powers and responsibilities to the Palestinian police will be accomplished in a phased manner, as agreed in the interim agreement.

Article X

It is agreed that, upon the entry into force of the Declaration of Principles, the Israeli and Palestinian delegations will exchange the names of the individuals designated by them as members of the joint Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee.

It is further agreed that each side will have an equal number of members in the joint committee. The joint committee will reach decisions by agreement. The joint committee will decide on the frequency and place or places of its meetings.

Annex II

It is understood that, subsequent to the Israeli withdrawal, Israel will continue to be responsible for external security, and for internal security and public order of settlements and Israelis. Israeli military forces and civilians may continue to use roads freely within the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area.

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GCE EXAMINATIONS

The British Council would like to announce that entries for the GCE January 1993 examinations will be accepted from Saturday 11 - Wednesday 15 September and Saturday 18 September from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Candidates are advised to bring with them an official identification and one photograph.

We would like to encourage candidates to register during this period to avoid payment of the late entry entry fee.

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Yeltsin, Aliyev discuss ties; conflict in Nagorno Karabakh

MOSCOW (AFP) — Acting Azerbaijani President Geidar Aliyev held talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin here Monday on cooperation in ending the conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave.

The Azerbaijani News Agency, Turan, said Mr. Aliyev planned to ask Mr. Yeltsin's government during his two-day stay here to deploy Russian troops along Azerbaijan's border with Armenia and Iran.

Most of the border region, located southwest of Nagorno-Karabakh, has fallen to Armenian separatist forces in recent weeks.

Turan, citing well placed sources, added that Mr. Aliyev was also favourable to Russian military bases being established within Azerbaijan, which had kept its distance from Moscow following the break up of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Aliyev, a Brezhnev-era Communist Party leader who made a dramatic comeback to rule Azerbaijan during a recent military rebellion, said after his meeting with Mr. Yeltsin that he was "satisfied" with the talks, which he said centred on "the principles of cooperation between Moscow and Baku on settling the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict."

He also pledged that his country would "never turn back into a Communist regime."

Earlier, he told the ITAR-TASS News Agency as he was heading to Moscow that his trip was aimed at "correcting the mis-

takes made by the previous (Azerbaijani) leadership in dealing with Russia."

He was referring to ousted President Abulfaz Elchibey, who developed strong ties with Turkey while moving away from Moscow after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Aliyev added that his government was considering joining the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and that he would personally represent Azerbaijan at the next CIS summit in Moscow on Sept. 24.

"The time has come for Azerbaijan to stop dispersing and instead gather its forces and allies," he said.

He added that his country's alienation from Moscow after the breakup of the Soviet Union had caused acute economic difficulties for Azerbaijan and the separatist Armenian rebellion in Nagorno-Karabakh had worsened the situation.

Mr. Yeltsin's office said the two leaders stressed Monday the need for abiding by a U.N. Security Council resolution calling on the separatists to withdraw from all Azerbaijani territory that fell under their control during recent offensives.

More than 10,000 people have been killed and hundreds of thousands displaced in the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, which is located inside Azerbaijan but has a predominantly Armenian population.

In the recent fighting, Armenian forces have pushed up to Azerbaijan's border with Iran

and Iranian troops have been stationed inside Azerbaijan at Baku's request to protect two hydroelectric facilities under joint development in the area.

Tensions have also been heightened with Turkey, which backs Baku and has said it could intervene if the conflict spreads.

A new round of peace talks aimed at ending the conflict is scheduled to begin Thursday in Moscow under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

The talks, the first involving direct negotiations between the Baku leadership and the separatists, were scheduled after the Azerbaijani parliament voted last Friday in favour of finding a negotiated solution to the five-year conflict.

Previous Baku governments had refused to negotiate with the separatists, insisting that they would only talk with authorities in Armenia proper.

Mr. Aliyev warned over the weekend that the decision to negotiate does not mean his government would not try to reclaim territory seized by the Armenians.

In addition to Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Aliyev is also to meet with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

Shots fired from Turkey into Armenia

Meanwhile, shots from small arms weapons were fired overnight from Turkey

into Armenia territory, a spokesman for Russian Border Guards in the area told AFP Monday.

The fire was heard twice, but was not aimed at the border post in Armenia, manned by Russian troops under an accord reached a year ago between Moscow and Yerevan.

Interfax News Agency said the shots were in the southern region of Artachat, near the Azeri enclave of Nakhichevan.

In Ankara, the government had not confirmed or denied the incident.

Turkey has beefed up its border forces since Armenian separatists captured large chunks of Azerbaijani territory in the region. Prime Minister Tansu Ciller warned last week that Ankara could intervene if the conflict spread.

The Russian order Guards said, Monday, it was "concerned" at the arrival of Turkish reinforcements, with tanks and artillery, near Turkey's border with Armenia.

Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, her country seeking a growing role in what was once the Soviet Union, flies to Russia Wednesday to discuss worsening conflicts near their borders.

The two days of talks will also cover economic cooperation between the two countries, including possible Russian sales of military equipment to the NATO country.

Mrs. Ciller is expected to express her concern over fighting in the volatile Transcaucasian region to the south of Russia.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (right) welcomes Acting Azeri President Geidar Aliyev to the Kremlin Monday (AFP photo)

'Sihanouk will only be figurehead'

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — In a surprise move, Prince Norodom Sihanouk has asked that he be only a powerless, figurehead leader under Cambodia's new constitution, a lawmaker said Monday.

Lawmakers had given the prince sweeping powers in a draft constitution submitted to him for approval.

But Chem Sengoun, vice chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee and minister of justice, said Prince Sihanouk told lawmakers last week in a meeting in North Korea that he wanted only the right to pardon criminals.

The draft was rewritten to the prince's wishes.

A copy, obtained by the Associated Press, calls for kings to be elected by a council of the throne, comprising elected lawmakers and the leaders of two Buddhist sects.

The king could only rubber-stamp appointments and removals, as well as calls by assembly leaders for a state of emergency. He would be restricted to two meetings a month with the cabinet on political developments.

Although the draft says the king would be called supreme commander of the armed forces,

it notes that someone else would be appointed to actually command the forces. It was not clear who would make that appointment.

"He wants to reign but not govern," Mr. Chem told a news conference. "The chief of state, or king, will be only a symbol of our national unity.... He wants his name to be correctly written in Cambodian history after he dies."

"I'm happy," Mr. Chem said. "Many Cambodian people do not like the king or chief of state to have too much power because we think any decisions must be made by several people."

"We need a king just to be a symbol," lawmaker Leng Mouly said. "We need elected people to rule the country."

Prince Sihanouk had ruled as king or head of state for three decades, but he appears to be grooming his favourite son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, to take over. Prince Ranariddh's party won the most seats in U.N.-organised elections in May and since has formed an interim coalition government with the previous Vietnamese-installed government, led by Hun Sen.

Prince Ranariddh's party and others had fought a civil war against Mr. Hun Sen's until a

1991 peace accord. Now they are co-chairman of the interim government, and will be co-presidents when the new government is formed later this month, Mr. Chem said.

"It would be better to have co-presidents rather than civil war," Mr. Chem said.

The assembly is to debate the draft next week. If it agrees on a monarchy, the constitution would specify that the king's limited powers could not be increased and that the queen could never have power," Mr. Chem said.

In a rare interview, Prince Sihanouk said in Monday's editions of the Cambodia Daily that only about five assembly members objected to reinstituting the monarchy. If the other 115 members approved it, "Cambodia will be a kingdom again," he added.

Meanwhile, Cambodia's leaders Monday appealed to Maoist Khmer Rouge guerrillas to give up what they called an unwinnable and meaningless war of resistance against the newly-elected government.

"There's no more meaning for you and your soldiers," said Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh, in a statement read over the radio.

U.K. to face European court over IRA killings

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — The European Commission on Human Rights ruled Monday that Britain should face a European court over the killing of three unarmed Irish guerrillas by undercover SAS troops in Gibraltar five years ago.

Relatives of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas had applied to take the case to the European court of human rights, arguing that the soldiers were under orders to shoot to kill and used unnecessary violence.

"After the hearing and deliberations, the commission declared the application admissible," a statement said.

The ruling was a major embarrassment for Britain which will have to mount a vigorous defence of its policy against the IRA to justify the shootings.

The commission, which screens applications, said the case would come to court barring an amicable settlement or withdrawal of the plea.

"The guerrillas' relatives seem unlikely to accept a friendly settlement or drop the case after securing access to the court."

A spokesman for the Council of Europe said it would take at least a year for the commission to study the case and draw up a report before the case could come to court.

Danny McCann, Mairead Farrell and Sean Savage were shot by Special Air Service (SAS) commandos called in by Gibraltar police commissioner to help round up an IRA unit preparing an attack against troops stationed in the British colony.

The IRA acknowledged they were members on a mission to the British Mediterranean colony, but the shooting caused an outcry

and charges that they were slain under a shoot-to-kill policy.

The SAS soldiers told an inquest in Gibraltar the guerrillas were believed to have been armed and to have driven a car loaded with explosives from Spain into Gibraltar.

The commandos said they shot the three in order to prevent them setting off the car bomb by remote control once they realised they were being trailed.

The inquest revealed that the guerrillas were unarmed and the car was empty, although it was intended to keep a parking space for a car bomb, later found in Spain, to be driven into Gibraltar.

The Gibraltar coroner declared the deaths a homicide.

Relatives of the guerrillas argued that the shooting violated the Human Rights Convention which guarantees the right to life, and said the British government was in breach of its obligation to prevent prior to the incident.

Article 2 of the convention outlaws international killing except to carry out a court sentence after due process of law.

Meanwhile, a surge in Protestant extremist attacks on Roman Catholics has pressed home the need for London and Dublin to try to revive flagging peace negotiations on Northern Ireland.

"It is vital to resume the talks process," Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds said at the weekend after Protestant extremists killed four people in one of the bloodiest weeks of the year in the Northern Ireland conflict.

Protestant extremists Monday firebombed the houses of several Catholic families in the Northern Ireland city of Armagh.

Pyongyang puts conditions for North-South dialogue

SOUTH (AFP) — North Korea Monday urged South Korea to stop joint military exercises with the United States and halt international pressures against Pyongyang as apparent preconditions to resuming dialogue, officials here said.

The move lessened the likelihood of a third round of high-level U.S.-North Korean talks taking place this month following last week's apparently inconclusive talks between the reclusive North and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), analysts said.

North Korean Prime Minister Kang Song-San said in a message to his Southern counterpart Hwang In-Sung that the South had to meet the demands before working-level officials meet this week to arrange an exchange of presidential envoys.

"If your side really wants dialogue and wishes to solve the nuclear issue, you have to make clear your attitude towards ending nuclear war exercises against your brethren and give up seeking international cooperation" in pressuring the North, Mr. Kang was quoted as saying.

The North this year cited U.S.-South Korean Team Spirit exercises, which it claimed were a "rehearsal for nuclear war," when it began its boycott of Inter-

Korean talks in January. Pyongyang has been demanding the exercise be cancelled next year.

To protect Team Spirit and IAEA demands to inspect two previously unreported nuclear sites, the North in March threatened to withdraw from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

Following two rounds of high-level talks with the United States, with which it wants to establish ties, the North agreed to remain in NPT, negotiate with the IAEA on renewing inspections and reopen talks with the South.

The latest talks between the IAEA and North Korea on resuming nuclear site inspections have ended without agreement, agency spokesman David Kyd said here Monday.

Agency suspects North Korea of using a nuclear nuclear complex at Yongbyon, near the capital Pyongyang, for work on a military nuclear programme.

Last week's three days of consultations in Pyongyang did not touch on that issue specifically, Mr. Kyd said.

He said the agency was ready to continue talks at any time, but added that the two sides had failed to set a date for continuing the talks at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indian premier begins China visit

BEIJING (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao began an official four-day visit here Monday to discuss ways of reducing border tension and expanding trade ties, officials said. Among proposed confidence-building measures are advance notice of military exercises or redeployment of forces and prevention of airspace violations. The boundary dispute, which sparked a 1962 war and led to a 14-year freeze in diplomatic relations, remains unresolved despite steady expansion of bilateral ties in other fields. The dispute involves 128,000 square kilometres (51,200 square miles) of territory. New Delhi said last month that it wanted a "proper delineation of the border," but appeared to rule out giving up any land. Agreements to step up trade relations and to cooperate in broadcasting and environment are expected to be signed.

Thatcher triggers storm in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has stirred a storm in Malaysia by heaping praise on Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim two months before he fights a key party poll. Lady Thatcher likened Mr. Anwar who is now the deputy presidency of the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) to a prized footballer but the statement did not go down well with Mr. Anwar rival Deputy Premier Ghafar Baba. "If finance ministers could be transferred like soccer players, I could think of several very much larger countries who would pay astronomical transfer fees to get him," Lady Thatcher had said of Mr. Anwar at a speaking engagement here Friday. Her remarks were made the same day the government announced a second quarter gross domestic product growth of 10.4 per cent and a drop in the inflation rate to 3.5 per cent. Mr. Ghafar reacted Sunday by saying that foreigners should "not interfere in local politics. Asked to comment on "foreign interference" in local politics, Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad said Monday he hoped that foreigners would not do so. "Just mind your own business," he said without making any reference to Lady Thatcher.

U.K. prisoners to end riot

LONDON (R) — Hundreds of prisoners went on the rampage in a British jail Monday, smashing windows, wrecking furniture and lighting fires before surrendering, prison officials said. Firefighters and police rushed to control the disturbance by about 400 inmates at Wymott Prison, near Leyland in northern England, some of whom climbed on to the roof. After several hours prisoners gave themselves up to police and prison officers in the jail and grounds, apparently forced out by acid smoke from a blazing workshop and fuel tank, officials said. Two prisoners were injured. The jail's governor told BBC Radio he had no idea what had caused the trouble at the modern prison. Officials said damage of up to £40 million (\$60 million) had been caused.

Peru referendum set for Oct. 31

LIMA (R) — A referendum on Peru's draft constitution will be held on Oct. 31, President Alberto Fujimori said Sunday night. A decree calling for the referendum, which he said amounted to a plebiscite on emergency measures taken a year ago, would be published Monday in the official gazette, Mr. Fujimori said in a television interview. "In short, what is this constitution? It is the fruit of April 5," he said referring to the date in 1992 he dissolved Congress and temporarily closed the courts, trying to strengthen his hand against leftist guerrillas. "As a result of this whole process the referendum would consolidate and even, like the opposition says, would legitimise (the April 5 measures)," Mr. Fujimori said.

Rutskoi says he is prevented from working

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian Vice President Alexander Rutskoi, whose duties were suspended last week by President Boris Yeltsin, Monday said he had been prevented from working in his Kremlin office. General Rutskoi described the ban as a "coup d'etat," the Interfax News Agency reported. The agency, citing a parliamentary official, said Mr. Rutskoi told a closed meeting of parliamentary groups that all his working telephones had been disconnected. Nikolai Pavlov, a leader of the Nationalist Russian faction in parliament who took part in the meeting, said Gen. Rutskoi characterised the latest move against him as a "coup d'etat."

Nigerian union suspends strike

LAGOS (R) — The Nigerian oil workers union NUPENG, whose 50,000 members have been on a pro-democracy strike since Aug. 27, said Monday it had suspended the strike with immediate effect. NUPENG Secretary General Frank Kokori announced the suspension after a meeting of the union's National Executive Committee Monday. The NUPENG strike, originally part of a general strike against the unelected government installed by the military last month, had paralysed transport by aggravating a long-standing fuel shortage in Nigeria. The Trade Union Federation (NUF) called off its own strike last Thursday but NUPENG pressed on, saying it wanted the government to announce the results of last June's presidential election and swear in the winner.

S. African whites warned on violence

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Police warned South African whites Monday that it was suicidal to go into anarchic black townships after a white man was burned to death at the weekend.

"It would be suicidal for white people to go into certain areas, police spokesman Wikus Weber told Reuters.

Twenty-five blacks were killed in sporadic weekend unrest in Johannesburg's troubled twin townships of Katlehong and Tokoza, focus of unrest since early July when multi-party negotiations set April 27 as the date for the first all-race election.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) called on township blacks to stay away from work Monday to press for a halt to the violence.

Several thousand people were attending a rally in Katlehong which witnesses described as being tense. Police were unable to confirm reports that a man had been shot dead by officers in the township Monday.

The warning to whites followed the burning to death of a 37-year-old white mailman who drove into Mandela shantytown east of Johannesburg to drop off a black worker Saturday.

Youths stabbed him, bundled him into his pick-up, doused him with petrol and set him alight. White businessmen who felt they had to go to the townships were advised to ask for police protection or to hire private bodyguards.

In another weekend attack, five gunmen armed with assault rifles and hand-grenades crossed the border from Lesotho, apparently hunting whites.

They searched the Riverside Lodge Hotel near Ladybrand but failed to find any. They then petrol-bombed the hotel.

A witness said the gunmen burst into the pool room and ordered blacks there to lie on the floor.

"Where are the white people? We want Boers (farmers), not you," one said, according to witness accounts.

The hotel was gutted but there were no casualties. An unexploded grenade lying on the hotel verandah had steel nails glued to it to increase its killing power.

South Africa's embattled townships have become increasingly dangerous for whites, especially since popular Communist Party chief Chris Hani was assassinated by a white last April.

Black activists say white hard-liners are a shadowy force behind township violence which has claimed more than 10,000 overwhelmingly black dead in three years of apartheid reform.

Mr. Mandela said Sunday the far-right Conservative Party (CP) will be crushed if it went ahead with its threats of civil war.

Speaking at a rally in Knagwane tribal homeland on the Swaziland border with South Africa, Mr. Mandela said the CP's threats proved that it wanted more immo-

cent people killed, the South African Press Association said. Mr. Mandela said the transition process was going ahead despite the CP's capacity to cause "trouble."

At the annual CP congress in Pretoria Friday, CP leader Ferdi Hartzenberg warned that the CP would go to war if a Transitional Executive Council (TEC) is installed in South Africa.

Mr. Hartzenberg said the CP would not subject itself to a TEC, essentially an interim government, currently being debated by democracy negotiators in Johannesburg.

If the government passed a bill which allowed for the creation of a TEC, the CP would regard this as a declaration of war, Mr. Hartzenberg said.

"The (Hartzenberg) has no vision," Mr. Mandela told the rally.

"He wants more innocent people in this country to be slaughtered, because the CP can cause trouble," he said.

"He is insisting whites kill blacks," Mr. Mandela claimed. "But if he has any inkling, he must know the people of South Africa will crush him."

"The TEC is going to be introduced in this country. The CP has no capacity of stopping us," Mr. Mandela said.

However, he said, the ANC, which talked to all political parties, was prepared even to talk to the CP "and remove their fears of democracy."

Pope wants Baltics-Russia reconciliation

VILNIUS (R) — Pope John Paul spread a message of reconciliation with Moscow as he continued his tour of the three former Soviet Baltic republics.

The Pontiff moves on to Lithuania's second city, Kaunas, Monday, on the second full day of a Baltic tour which will also take in Estonia and Latvia.

On Sunday he appealed to Russians and Balts to avert conflicts and seek peaceful coexistence.

In an address to diplomats in Vilnius he said the world community "recognises the aspiration of citizens of Russian origin to enjoy full human rights."

The issue of Soviet-era settlers who moved to the Baltics in the last half-century, coupled with that of Soviet troops still in the region, has become emotive in the countries annexed by Stalin in 1940.

Russian troops left Lithuania four days before the Pope arrived, but no withdrawal agreement has yet been reached with Latvia and Estonia, where more than 20,000 troops are still based.

The Pope told the diplomats

that both sides should "know how to bid themselves of the spirit of vengeance and the temptation to obtain by force what can only be lastingly achieved by good sense and negotiations."

In Kaunas, Pope John Paul, citing the disastrous environmental legacy of the former Soviet Union, urged mankind to respect the earth.

"The earth is man's homeland...he participates in the work of renewing the face of the earth," the Pope said in the sermon of a mass before more than 100,000 people gathered on a field in Kaunas.

"Unfortunately he (man) is also capable of destroying this face, as is shown by the wars and ecological disasters that cause so much and such great damage to man and the habitat that is vital for the planet," he told the crowd.

"Did the creator not perhaps give the earth to men and nations so that it could be watched over and cared for?"

The governments of many countries of the former Soviet Bloc have inherited an environmental disaster from their Com-

munist predecessors, who disregarded ecological concerns in their drive to industrialise.

Environmental blight extends from Ukraine, chief victim of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, to Russia's Ural industrial heartland, the shrinking Aral Sea in Central Asia and the former atomic test site in Kazakhstan.

In Lithuania itself, environmentalists have voiced concern at repeated faults at the Ignalina nuclear power plant, built to the same design as Chernobyl.

Industrial waste in the Neris and Nemunas Rivers contributed to polluting the Baltic Sea.

Large tracts of forests in eastern Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic and other countries have suffered defoliation because of acid rain, caused by untreated factory emissions.

It was the second consecutive day the Pope had spoken out on environmental issues.

Speaking to academics in the capital Vilnius on Sunday night he spoke of an ecological disaster of such proportions it could legitimately be called an "environmental holocaust."

Depressed Jackson may leave Taiwan earlier — promoter

TAIPEI (AFP) — U.S. pop star Michael Jackson feels "depressed" about a violent altercation between Taiwan journalists and his bodyguards and might leave Taiwan a day earlier than scheduled, a promoter here said Monday. "Jackson asked his staffers to clip various local newspapers reporting the struggle, and after learning that most reports were indignant about the incident, he felt depressed," a spokeswoman quoted Promoter Yu Kang, as saying. Yu added Jackson could leave Taiwan a day earlier because of this unhappy event. Jackson was originally scheduled to leave here Wednesday for Fukuoka in Japan, fourth stop of the Asian leg of his Dangerous world tour. The local press prominently reported the beating of three photographers and injuring of one fan by bodyguards at the pop singer's first concert in Taiwan. The Taipei Photographers' Association also released a statement Monday protesting at the bodyguards' behaviour and demanding an official apology from the promoter. Another target for wrath has been the police, accused by the press and city councillors of wasting taxpayers' money by deploying more than 1,200 officers for Jackson's visit.

Ancient Roman bridge discovered in Serbia

BELGRADE (AFP) — The remains of a fourth century Roman bridge were recently discovered by divers at the bottom of the Sava River in Sremska Mitrovica, west of Belgrade, the daily Politika reported here Monday. Several pillars that upheld the bridge were discovered in good shape, according to archaeologist Peter Milosevic. Mr. Milosevic said divers also discovered an inscribed stone monument that could have served as an altar on the bridge. Sremska Mitrovica was known as the province of Sirmium during the Roman Empire and was said to have two bridges. The second bridge was destroyed in 316 by the Roman Emperor Licinius in order to stop the advance of troops loyal to his rival Constantine the Great. An archaeological search of the area has had to be stopped for lack of funds, the paper said.

Flying Falstaff bids farewell — from Edinburgh

EDINBURGH (R) — Falstaff, limbs flailing, soared skywards from his stage tormentors at the Playhouse Theatre, signalling an end to Verdi's opera and the Scottish capital's most successful festival for years. The Welsh National Opera's lusty version Saturday of Verdi's last opera, produced by German director Peter Stein, was the final musical offering in three weeks of music and drama that enthused critics and brought thousands of visitors to Edinburgh. "Some performances have over-achieved but the overall trend is up," said Edinburgh International Festival Marketing Director Joanna Baker. "Last year ticket sales were \$1.2 million. This year our target was 16 per cent up to just over \$1.4 million and with final returns to come, it seems we're going to make it." Ms. Baker said a pre-festival fire at the Playhouse cut sales for the 3,000-seat venue. Sell-out performances by America's Mark Morris Troupe had to be transferred to a sports centre with only half the capacity.

12 Japanese women fly from China, seeking residency

TOKYO (AFP) — Twelve Japanese women in China who have been unable to live in Japan since World War II, arrived Sunday seeking government support for their residency claim. The group, aged from 57 to 81, will appeal to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to help them stay in Japan, press reports said Monday. Though the Japanese government has helped who remained in China after World War II to visit Japan temporarily, it does not permit permanent residency unless they find their guarantors among their relatives in Japan.

Stomach ache? Check for scissors

NEW DELHI (R) — An Indian woman who complained of abdominal pains for four years had a nine-inch (23-cm) pair of scissors removed from her stomach, the United News of India reported Sunday. UNI said 29-year-old Meena Parohit had taken drugs for the pain since an operation in 1989. She was rushed to hospital about three weeks ago when a swelling appeared, and an X-ray revealed the surgical instrument had been left inside her. Surgeons removed the scissors.

Jazireh attempts to set 24-hour basketball marathon record

By Aileen Bamayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A first-of-its-kind athletic event will take place in Amman Thursday Sept. 9, when players of all age groups of Al Jazireh's basketball teams begin a 24-hour basketball marathon at the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped.

The marathon will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday and will continue until 7 p.m. Friday evening, with players of the men's and women's teams, in addition to the younger basketball enthusiasts, seeking to

set a never-before-attempted Jordanian athletic record.

"This year we will set a local record. But someday we might attempt to get into the Guinness Book of World Records by breaking the world record of 72 hours," Jazireh's head coach Fadi Sabbah Monday told the Jordan Times.

Sabbah explained that the basketball marathon would be a sponsored one — meaning that each participating player would seek sponsorship from different sources. The collected amount will be used when the club's men's and women's teams travel

abroad for tournaments next summer.

Al Jazireh's basketball teams, sponsored by Aramex, seem set on a carefully executed plan to contest the country's basketball championships. The U-14 and U-16 boys teams overcame competition from the Kingdom's traditional top two teams Al Ahli and Al Orthonod earlier this month. The women's team Monday began their quest for their division title, while the men's team have high hopes of securing third place in the First Division Championship.

U.S. Open Krajicek struggles through; Novotna falls

NEW YORK (AFP) — Jim Courier and Steffi Graf did it the easy way, Richard Krajicek did it the hard way, but all advanced Sunday as the U.S. Open tennis championships entered their second week.

World number one Courier defeated unseeded compatriot Mali- vai Washington 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

Courier went down a break early in the first set, but broke back in the eighth and 10th and never trailed again.

"At 4-3 I did turn it up a notch," said Courier, who has yet to drop a set in three matches. He led a string of men's seeds into the fourth round. German Boris Becker, the number four, beat Chilean Sergio Cortes 6-4, 6-4, 6-3.

"My first round was a struggle," he said. "We played over four and a half hours, but then the last two matches they have been easy for me. I have played just over two hours today and an hour and 45 minutes the other day, so from that point of view it is all right."

Eight-seeded Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev also advanced with a 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) victory over German Karsten Braasch.

Cedric Pioline, France's 15th seed, put an end to former champion Mats Wilander's little holiday at the Open with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 victory.

Wilander, a former world number one, said he would head home to Connecticut and think about whether he wants to get serious about a comeback.

Three unseeded men reached the round of 16, Australians Wally Masur and Jamie Morgan and Swede Magnus Larsson.

Larsson beat Australian Richard Fromberg, 6-2, 7-5, 7-6 (7/5). Masur beat Spaniard Javier Sanchez 6-1, 7-5, 7-6 (7/4), and Morgan, playing in his first U.S. Open, beat Spain's Carlos Costa 7-5 (9/7), 7-6 (7/1), 7-5 (7/2).

But the mail-biter of the day belonged to Krajicek.

The Dutch 10th seed was down two sets, and fought off two match points in the third-set tie-breaker to beat American Todd Martin 6-7 (4/7), 4-6, 7-6 (11/9), 6-4, 6-4.

The match lasted five hours and 10 minutes and Krajicek packed it with 24 aces, including the match-winning.

Even in the fifth set, Krajicek's



Jan Novotna

serves were clocked at up to 125 mph.

"I remember on one match point, he hit an unbelievable second serve. I could barely get my racket on it," Martin said.

"On the other one, I got the racket on it, and missed it wide."

Graf, the women's world number one and top seed, scared herself with an injury in practice Sunday, but she steamrolled 13th-seeded Mary Pierce of France 6-1, 6-0 to reach the quarter-finals.

Graf twisted her left knee in practice and took painkillers before the match.

But Pierce, who has been showing the strain of publicity about her break with her overbearing father, Jim, caved in, failing to win a single service game.

"It is really disappointing," she said. "I can play as well as any player, but when I just have to I am not."

Fifth-seeded Argentinian Gabriela Sabatini was stretched to three sets, and six match points, by 17-year-old American Lindsay Davenport.

Sabatini finally triumphed 6-7 (1/7), 6-4, 6-4, but she can expect a difficult time against Graf in the quarters.

Unseeded Kimiko Date ousted Wimbledon finalist Jana Novotna to become the first Japanese woman to reach the quarter-finals here since 1975.

Date, ranked 18th in the world, was playing her first tournament since she pulled out of Wimbledon with a knee ligament injury. Novotna, the eighth seed never got into the match as Date commanded the net and kept her pinned to the baseline with brisk passing shots.

Fourth-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez tumbled out of the fourth round at the hands of 11th seed Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere.

The Swiss player won 1-6, 6-0, 6-2.

"There's no explanation," Martinez said. "I played one of the worst matches in my life."

Four seeded women, number two Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, number three Martina Navratilova, 12th-seeded Czech Helena Sukova and 14th-seeded Frenchwoman Nathalie Tauziat completed the fourth-round line-up with victories in rain-delayed matches.

Colombia humiliate Argentina to reach finals

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Colombia pulled off a major surprise Sunday when they humiliated Argentina 5-0 to earn a trip to the 1994 World Cup finals.

The shock victory led to impromptu fireworks displays and dancing in the streets back in Bogota and was immediately followed by a television address of congratulations by Colombian president Cesar Gaviria.

But in Buenos Aires the humiliation cut deep, and the home players left the field to jeers and insults. The 1986 world champions, have one last chance to reach the finals. They must face Australia in a play-off.

Argentina's goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea, who had confidently predicted a big win for his side before the Group A qualifying match, was made to eat his words.

Freddy Rincon and Faustino Asprilla each scored twice for the visitors, and Adolfo Valencia scored the other goal as the enthusiastic Colombians handed out a football lesson.

Sunday's result meant that Colombia completed their six group matches in the group unbeaten — having scored four wins and two draws.

But Argentina, who had three victories, one draw and two defeats, came to within nine minutes of World Cup elimination.

They needed the help of winless Peru to earn the play-off with Australia.

The Peruvians managed to force a 2-2 draw against Paraguay in Lima thanks to an 81st minute equaliser from Alfredo Mendoza.

Mendoza had also scored Peru's first goal 20 minutes earlier after Muchotrigo (22) and Soto (77) had given the visitors a

2-0 lead.

Paraguay, who finished with one victory, one loss and four draws, would have put Argentina out of contention altogether if they had won the match.

In Group B, Brazil moved up to share first place with Bolivia when they beat Venezuela 4-0 in Belo Horizonte. Bolivia, however, have a game in hand.

The Brazilian scorers Sunday were Ricardo Gomez (27 and 89) and Falcão (29) and Evar (31).

The result left Brazil on four victories, two draws and one defeat in seven games.

Visiting Uruguay defeated Ecuador 1-0 thanks to Ruben Sosa's goal in the ninth minute.

The early goal destroyed any hopes the hosts may have had.

The Uruguayans have three wins, two draws and a defeat for eight points, keeping the pressure on Brazil and Bolivia.

Roma upset Juventus; Barcelona flex muscle

PARIS (AFP) — Bitter rivals Barcelona and Real Madrid showed off their shooting as they opened the new Spanish season with impressive wins at the weekend.

Brazilian newcomer Romario was an instant hit with the Barcelona fans when he scored a hat-trick for the champions on his debut. The South American's goals, which came in the 14th, 67th and 83rd minutes, sunk John

Tosback's ultra-defensive Real Sociedad.

Real Madrid also had a comfortable first match victory — coming away 4-1 winners from Osasuna.

Guerreiro scored a hat-trick for Athletic Bilbao who beat visiting Albacete 4-1.

Sevilla came away 2-1 winners from Real Zaragoza and Valencia put three goals past Oviedo's goalkeeper in another away match.

Sampdoria, without England captain David Platt who is on World Cup duty for his country's vital midweek clash against Poland, edged ahead of Italian champions AC Milan thanks to a better scoring record.

They notched up their second win by beating newly-promoted Piacenza and scored all the goals in a 2-1 victory.

Clashes between rival fans, which left six injured — one of them seriously, marred AC Milan's 1-0 victory over Genoa.

Parma also got their second 1-0 win, over Lecce, but Torino lead the four clubs with two wins.

They beat Atalanta 2-1 — Giorgio Venturini and Daniele Fortunato scoring within five minutes of each other — to take their goal tally to five from two games. Sampdoria have four.

Juventus's title hopes took an early blow when they lost 2-1 at AS Roma in front of 60,000 fans in the Olympic stadium.

Inter Milan dropped behind with a 1-1 draw at Foggia and Napoli lost for the second week running when they were beaten 2-0 at Cremonese.

In Germany, Bayern Munich needed a last minute equaliser at MSV Duisburg and both clubs are now level-pegging on eight points.

Jan Wouters cancelled out Peter Koetzle's second minute goal for Duisburg, but Hannes Reimann put the home side up again early in the second half. Mehmet Scholl saved Bayern in the dying seconds.

Marseille banned

ZURICH (AFP) — UEFA, the European football governing body, Monday banned Olympique Marseille from defending the European Champions Cup it won in May.

Marseille, who are at the centre of a giant soccer bribes scandal in France, were banned from European competition for one season, a UEFA statement said.

The governing body's executive committee took the decision after a five hour meeting in a Zurich hotel.

UEFA have given the French Football Federation until Wednesday at 1500 GMT to name a replacement team for this year's European Cup.

Marseille leaders had hoped to take part in this year's competition despite the allegations hanging over them. But UEFA decided to take action without waiting for the French soccer authorities to make a decision in the case.

Police and the French federation are investigating claim that a Marseille official, Jean-Pierre Bernes, and a player Jean-Jacques Eydelie, tried to bribe three players for Olympique's victory in a May 20 league game.

The French soccer authorities have not taken action yet. A French League committee decided Saturday that it did not have enough proof to take action.

The slow investigation has annoyed UEFA and the international governing body FIFA. France has been threatened with sanctions, which could include France being banned from the World Cup qualifying tournament, if it does not take action by September 23.

In a statement, UEFA President Johnsson said: "The committee was disappointed about the fact that the FFF (French Federation) has been unable, for whatever reasons, to produce any results of its investigations."

He added that the bribes investigation was "a matter of highest importance for national and international football."

"The committee was of the opinion that the essential results of the inquiry of the prosecuting judge in France, which are now generally known by the public, indicate that an irregularity had occurred."

His statement said the decision to ban Marseille was taken "as a preventive measure in order to protect the integrity of the European club competitions."

UEFA will have a new meeting to decide whether Marseille should play in next season's competition if they qualify.

Johnsson admitted to reporters that he expected some angry reactions in France. "I suppose Bernard Tapie and the people of Marseille won't be very happy."

Tapie, the Marseille president, has said that the club's future would be decided by the meeting. He has threatened to quit.

But the club owner was not immediately available for comment after the decision.

Morceli takes Cram's world mile record

RIETI, Italy (R) — Algerian Noureddine Morceli slashed almost two seconds off the eight-year-old world mile record when he clocked three minutes 44.39 seconds at an international meeting Sunday.

The performance eclipsed the record of 3:46.32 set by Englishman Steve Cram in Oslo back July 27, 1985.

It was the second successive year that the Algerian has set a world mark at this small stadium in the hills north of Rome — Morceli posting his 1,500 metres record here last September.

Morceli, who had clocked the fifth fastest mile of all time in Brussels Friday and the third

fastest a week earlier, was always ahead of the clock on his third attempt on the record in 10 days.

He was aided by pacemakers for the first 1,200 metres and then the crowd took over, chanting his name as he hurtled towards the record on a sunlit evening.

The 1,500 metres world champion dances a jig of delight when he saw his time and then cavorted around the circuit waving a bunch of flowers.

The Algerian now plans to run the 1,500 metres in the Grand Prix final in London Friday, his first race before taking a well earned rest.

There were several other performances to admire.

Kenyan Nixon Kiprotich, a silver medalist in the Olympics last year, posted a season's best 1:43.54 as he beat world champion compatriot Paul Ruto into second place over 800 metres.

World 200 metres champion Frankie Fredericks dipped under the 20-second barrier, the Namibian winning in 19.96.

Olympic and world 100 champion Linford Christie was forced to settle for second place in the sprint.

The Briton just failed to record or from a poor start and was beaten by American Jon Drummond, though both clocked 10.03 seconds, a personal best for Drummond.

The 23-year-old Morceli clearly likes the air at this town in the hills north of Rome — he set his world 1,500 metres record at this meeting a year ago.

Aided by pacemakers for the first 1,200 metres of Sunday's race, the Algerian was always ahead of the clock and maintained his advantage as the crowd chanted his name on the final lap.

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K52 ♠A1074 ♠85 ♠K1067
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
2 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?
—What do you bid now?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKQJ5 ♠A8 ♠KJ104 ♠A7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass
—What do you bid now?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠7 ♠KQ84 ♠Q75 ♠A10765
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
—What do you bid now?
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ109 ♠J1086 ♠J1052 ♠86
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
—What do you bid now?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AJ108542 ♠6 ♠A75 ♠72
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
—What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K5 ♠K7 ♠Q9764 ♠8642
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

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CONCORD 1 MY GIRL CONCORD 2 LAST ACTION HERO		Adel Imam in Wad Sayyed Al Shaghal play. (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30		Robert Redford Demi Moore — in INDECENT PROPOSAL Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		presents a play entitled: Al ilm Nuron A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalal, Hassan Al Shaer, Faeed Shomail In addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day		Returns to you Thursday Aug. 26 in the play: Arab Summit Conference	

Saddam tells cabinet to counter profiteers

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein, who executed dozens of alleged profiteers last year, has ordered his new government to crack down again on profiteers and hoarders. He told the incoming government to pay more attention to providing security and food for the Iraqi people, who are suffering from soaring prices after three years of a sweeping U.N. embargo against Baghdad.

"There is no task above the task of serving the people, alleviating their burden and putting an end to their exploitation by middlemen, parasites and those toying with the people's and country's wealth," he told cabinet in remarks carried by Baghdad newspapers on Monday.

Last year Iraq executed 42 merchants for alleged profiteering and illegal hoarding.

Newspapers gave no indication on Monday whether more heads would roll now.

But President Saddam told the cabinet: "There is no item in the cabinet's agenda more important than the life and the security of the people and their livelihood at this stage."

He told the government to take a careful look at all possible ways to ease the burden for Iraqis of soaring prices in an economy crippled by U.N. economic sanctions imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"The cabinet has to discuss every single item, every case leading to the lessening of the

burden on the citizens," President Saddam said.

President Saddam appointed Finance Minister Ahmad Hussein Khadayar Sunday to replace Prime Minister Mohammad Hamza Al Zubeidi in a surprise cabinet reshuffle which brought in eight new ministers.

Mr. Khadayar keeps the finance portfolio he has held since July last year. During his tenure he has almost cleansed Iraq of forged currency but has not managed to strengthen the dinar.

President Saddam urged the new cabinet to follow economic guidelines he laid down in August last year, which included a tough "plan of action" to salvage the economy introduced after the execution of the alleged profiteers.

The government later banned the import of luxury goods as part of an attempt to shore up the sinking dinar and reduce prices of essential commodities.

But prices have continued to soar and the dinar has plunged further. The economy has shown little sign of recovery after more than three years of a sweeping U.N. embargo.

The official press publishes almost daily reports of leaps in food prices. A report in the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said prices were on fire and the market was "a theatre of the absurd."

"Statements from officials to fix prices and punish greedy traders are statements to hear and not apply," Al Jumhuriyah said.



TRIUMPHANT RETURN: With a big smile and holding a Palestinian child and flowers in his hands, Minister of the Interior, Ahmad Hussein Khadayar, a Palestinian with American citizenship who headed the Palestinian Centre for Non-Violence in occupied Jerusalem before he was expelled by the Israeli authorities in 1983, greets friends upon his arrival at Tel Aviv airport Sunday. Israel has given him a three-day permit to stay and attend a conference (AFP photo)

Muta plot trial opens at State Security Court on Thursday

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The trial of 10 men accused of conspiring to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein will open at the State Security Court at Marka Thursday, judicial sources said Monday.

The indictment will include plotting to overthrow the regime and membership in an illegal organisation, the sources told the Jordan Times. Eight of the defendants are under custody and two will be tried in absentia, the sources said on condition of anonymity.

The sources identified the eight who will appear in court as: Mohammad Askar, Hussein Jidi, Basel Zaghloul, Fouad Sheifart, Ziyad Abdullat and Suleiman Ziad, all of them students at the Muta University, and Ismail Wahwah and Hilal Shammout, as "leading members of Hezb Al Tahrir (Islamic Liberation Party)."

The two at large were identified as Walid Shahin and Youssef Isbatin.

The prosecution will produce eight witnesses to "prove that the 10 plotted against the life of His Majesty King Hussein, sought to overthrow the regime and belonged to an illegal organisation," said one of the sources.

Further details of the case were not immediately available. The sources said possession of illegal weapons was not among the charges.

Reports in the local press have given differing accounts of how the plot was concocted and how the security authorities were able to discover it and arrest the suspects.

Security forces arrested more than 30 people on April 15, all others except the eight in custody were released after questioning.

According to the sources, the plot involved an attack on King Hussein during a graduation ceremony at Muta on June 26.

Two leading members of Hezb Al Tahrir, spokesman Ata Abn Rishleh and activists Bakr Khawaldeh, were arrested on May 20, but they will not be charged in the Muta plot case since there is no evidence against them, the sources said.

Mr. Abu Rishleh and Mr. Khawaldeh are being held mainly on charges of undertaking political activities on behalf of an organisation which does not have legal status in the country, other sources said.

The sources noted that Hezb Al Tahrir, which does not recognise any of the existing Arab regimes and advocates the establishment of caliphate-style states where Islamic law reigns supreme, had not applied for registration as a political party in Jordan in line with the new Political Parties Law enacted in September 1992.

Although the Muta arrests were known immediately after they took place, no reports could be published in line with the provision of the Press and Publication Law.

Hezb Al Tahrir was set up in the West Bank by Sheikh Taqiddin Nabhan in 1951. A Jordan chapter was established in 1952, but was outlawed along with all other political parties in 1957 following a left-coup attempt.

Hezb Al Tahrir, whose membership strength in Jordan is unknown, believes in forced overthrow of Arab regimes. At least twice in the last 20 years, the group was implicated in trying to stage a coup through infiltrating the armed forces.

In a statement delivered to an international news agency in Amman last month, the group denied any involvement in the Muta affair and said it had no links with the detained students.

But the agency quoted the man who delivered the statement as saying that the other four were Hezb Al Tahrir activists and that another man was also detained in July.

Relatives and family members have said that the suspects are devout Muslims but maintain that they would not be involved in a plot against the King.

They also charged that the suspects were tortured in custody. No official comment has been made in response to the charges. One of those who were released after questioning said he was treated well in detention.

State Security Court sources said the trial will be open to the public subject to seating capacity.

"There are certain guidelines that the media should follow in line with the Press and Publication Law provisions related to court trials," said a source at the court.

"These guidelines will be underlined at the opening of the trial," the source did not elaborate.

Colonel Yusef Faouri will preside over the three-member panel of judges at the court and Major Mohammad Hijazi will lead the prosecution. Eight lawyers will represent the defence.

It was the first reported plot against the life of the King since the 70s.

King Hussein, 57, has survived numerous attempts on his life since he took over the leadership of Jordan in 1952.

The King, in recent comments to the press, said he was "very shocked" when he heard of the Muta plot, but "not surprised because there have been frequent attempts" against his life during his 41-year reign.

"Attempts on my life over the past years never stopped despite the fact that I feel the happiest person in view of the respect and affection from the Jordanian family," he said.

"Throughout the Arab and Islamic history and since the early caliphate days, prominent people have been exposed to assassination attempts..." the King said. "I am a believer in God and accept His judgement."

Fighting blocks Bosnia aid

SARAJEVO (R) — Thousands of Muslims seeking refuge in the Bosnian mountain town of Jablanica have no food or shelter, but combat between Croat and Muslim forces has blocked aid convoys throughout Bosnia. U.N. officials said on Monday.

About 7,000 to 10,000 people have flooded into the Jablanica region having been expelled by Croat forces, said Ray Wilkinson, spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"Many people are on the streets without accommodation and without food," Mr. Wilkinson said at a news conference in Sarajevo.

"UNHCR is trying to get a convoy in as soon as possible, but that is going to depend on the security situation."

Food supplies in the region have been strained by the movement of refugees towards Jablanica, about 60 kilometres west of Sarajevo.

U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Colonel Bill Aikman said aid convoys still met problems at military checkpoints across Bosnia, as Muslim and Croat forces duel for pockets of land.

According to the United Nations, Sarajevo may run out of fuel within days because Muslim-Croat clashes have cut off convoys travelling from the Croatian port of Split.

Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency on Monday quoted Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic as saying Serbs were unwilling to make more concessions on territory in order to restart stalled peace talks.

Tanjug reported that territorial adjustments could be discussed only within the framework of the proposed peace plan, which awards 52 per cent of Bosnia to Serbs, 30 per cent to Muslims and 18 per cent to Croats.

Negotiations between Serb, Croat and Muslim leaders broke down last Wednesday in Geneva after Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic demanded access to

the Adriatic Sea and some four per cent more terrain.

Mr. Izetbegovic planned to speak privately to U.N. Security Council members in New York on Tuesday to gain support for the Muslim-led Bosnian government's position.

UNPROFOR reported heavy fighting between Muslim and Croat forces around Fojnica and Kojnic, west of Sarajevo. Col. Aikman said the Bosnian army appeared to be trying to secure a road running north-south between Fojnica and Tarcin for movement of troops and supplies.

In the central Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf, fierce fighting had been replaced by an eerie quiet, said Col. Aikman, quoting British peacekeepers in the area.

"The town is basically deserted. The British report an eerie feeling with nothing moving and total quiet," Col. Aikman said.

"It's as though it's a no man's land."

British peacekeepers said the Bosnian army also seemed intent on seizing a highway north of Vitez, because Muslim and Croat forces had been locked in combat northwest of town.

Sarajevo Radio reported 110 mortar rounds fired by both Serb and Croat forces hit Bosnian army positions on Sunday in the Mostar region in southwest Bosnia. Ten people were wounded, the radio said.

A planned reciprocal evacuation of wounded Croats from central Bosnia and Muslims from Mostar remained on hold, U.N. officials said.

A Bosnian army commander told a British officer in Vitez on Sunday there would be no more evacuations of Croat wounded from Nova Bila until Muslim wounded were evacuated from Mostar, Col. Aikman said.

U.N. officials told a Reuters journalist in Medjugorje, near Mostar, that the evacuation depended on the arrival of Bosnian army helicopters that would fly wounded patients to Muslim-held towns.

Libyan lawyer says British fair trial assurance inadequate

CAIRO (AP) — A Libyan lawyer said Monday that new British assurances of a fair trial in Scotland for two Libyans accused of bombing an American airliner remain inadequate.

Attorney Ibrahim Legwell said he visited Scotland last month to investigate conditions under which his clients might be tried. He was not impressed.

"It's not a matter of promises or assurances. The British have to end their predetermined belief that the suspects are guilty," the lawyer told the Associated Press by telephone from the Libyan capital Tripoli.

"The request for compensation shows they have already made up their minds the two Libyans are guilty. The vague wording (in the indictments) about conspiracy with others is another point," he said. "We must be guaranteed a fair trial, with my clients presumed innocent. We are seeking our human rights."

Mr. Legwell's clients are under indictment in the United States and Britain on charges of killing

270 people by blowing up Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988. Both countries have demanded compensation for victims' families.

The indictments charge that the men, alleged to be Libyan agents, conspired with unidentified other people in the crime. Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has refused to surrender the pair on the ground his country's laws do not allow it.

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman spoke Sunday of "detailed assurances" to Tripoli that Britain would deal fairly with the suspects.

"We have given the Libyans a series of detailed assurances about a fair trial in Scotland and the treatment of the two men after they have been surrendered," the spokesman said.

But he brushed aside a report in a Scottish newspaper that said Britain and Libya have signed a deal to bring the two men to trial there.

Algeria reacts angrily to Qadhafi speech on FIS

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria has demanded Libya explain a speech in which Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi sympathised with the Muslim fundamentalists fighting the Algerian government.

The Algerian Foreign Ministry summoned Libyan Ambassador Abdul Mouli Salem Al Ghabban on Sunday, the ministry said in a statement carried on Algiers Radio on Monday.

The Ministry questioned Mr. Ghabban about Colonel Qadhafi's speech last week and asked Libya to "provide explanations on inadmissible propositions... which constitute interference in Algeria's internal affairs, which it will not tolerate," the statement said.

The Algerian newspaper El Watan said Sunday Col. Qadhafi was one of the main supporters of "terrorism," the term Algerian officials use for political violence by fundamentalists waging a low-level guerrilla war against the security forces.

The newspaper pressed the authorities to act against Libya.

It said that in his speech Col. Qadhafi said Libya had the "capacity to cooperate" with the Algerian fundamentalist movement the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), its jailed President Abassi Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj.

The Algerian authorities cancelled parliamentary elections in 1992 because the FIS was about to win a majority. An Algiers court later banned the movement.

Al Watan quoted Col. Qadhafi

as saying: "They are our friends, I have prayed with them. Libya can talk with the FIS to save Algeria... I am ready to meet Abassi Madani even in prison."

Al Watan said Algeria "knew" from Syria, as well as Sudan, "terrorism," coming notably from Libya with arms and equipment. If there was any doubt about the Libyan network, Qadhafi has just dispensed it.

The newspaper was the first to call for Algeria to act against Sudan and Iran for presumed support for the Muslim militants, just before Algiers broke relations with Tehran last March. Algiers also recalled its ambassador from Khartoum.

Algeria and Libya, along with Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, are members of the Arab Maghreb Union, a regional organisation set up in 1989 to encourage economic cooperation and coordinate foreign policy.

On Monday Al Watan said Muslim fundamentalists had complete freedom of movement in Libya, including the freedom to traffic in arms, which Col. Qadhafi himself feeds and supports.

Al Watan, generally well informed on security affairs, said Benazzou Zabda, a FIS founding member acquitted of charges in connection with a bomb at Algiers airport, "had immediately packed his bags and gone to Libya, as so many others before him."

COLUMN

Clinton in Florida to tour hurricane damage of 1992

MIAMI BEACH, Florida (R) — President Bill Clinton flew Sunday to Florida where he will spend the Labour Day holiday Monday visiting a neighbourhood devastated by last year's hurricane Andrew. The president, who is here with his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea, began his two-day visit to the sunshine state with a long run along the beach despite the heat and humidity, and much to the surprise of excited tourists. "It's really hot out there," the president quipped to reporters as he cooled down from the run. On Monday Mr. Clinton planned to go to Homestead to meet victims of last year's hurricane Andrew which destroyed or severely damaged nearly one out of eight homes in Miami's Dade County. Damage estimates range from \$21 billion to \$30 billion, making it the most costly natural disaster in U.S. history.

Nimble-fingered empress steals the show

PISTOIA, Italy (AFP) — Music-lover Empress Michiko of Japan caused a stir here when she got up to play the piano during an instrumental recital in honour of her and her husband's wedding week end. Fellow music buff Emperor Akihito watched on with startled Italian officials as his wife left her spectator's seat to go and play tunes by Bach and French composer Charles Gounod. The imperial couple arrived here Saturday from nearby Florence having spent their time since arriving in Italy last Friday visiting the north's cultural attractions before they get down to the serious business of official engagements Monday. Curious Italians lined the streets shooting the couple's names as they made their way up to Pistoia's cathedral and the responsive couple gave security police some headaches as they rushed to shake the hands of the thronging masses. Once inside the cathedral, the cultured couple had no qualms about kneeling before the altar and their tour-guide to get a better view of the work of Italian Renaissance architectural pioneer Filippo Brunelleschi. Emperor Akihito and his wife were spending Sunday visiting the town of Siena and the Uffizi Gallery, Florence's world-renowned museum, part of which was badly damaged in a bomb attack that killed five people last May. The couple are due to leave here for Belgium Thursday.

Kalashnikov's success makes its designer weep

LONDON (R) — The Russian designer of the Kalashnikov AK-47 rifle says the worldwide success of his creation at times makes him weep with sadness. "Whenever I see on television my weapon being used to shoot on the wrong side, if I can say that, I feel tears in my eyes," Dr. Mikhail Kalashnikov said in an interview with Britain's Press Association news agency issued Monday. The AK-47, the most successful rifle in history, is a favourite weapon of guerrillas and mercenaries. There are more than 55 million of them around the world. "The reason really is that it was designed by a soldier keeping in mind this was a weapon for a soldier," said 74-year-old Kalashnikov, whose latest project is a hunting rifle based on the AK-47. He thought of the original design, renowned for its simplicity and reliability, while recovering from shell wounds in a military hospital during World War II when he was a sergeant in the Soviet army. It was first produced in 1947 and entered service with Soviet forces in the early 1950s. The 7.62mm semi-automatic rifle fires at the rate of 600 rounds a minute.

Mao statue unveiled for 100th birthday

PEKING (R) — China's Mao Tse-Tung, who died in 1976, is getting younger all the time as far as sculptors are concerned. A five-times-life-size bronze statue, just completed to mark the centennial of his birth, shows Chairman Mao as a strapping but studious youth of 20 carrying a book in one hand, the official Xinhua News Agency said Monday. Uncountable numbers of Mao statues around China depict him in later stages of life, typically thick in girth and draped in a greatcoat with hands folded behind him — or with clenched arm pointing the way to socialism's future. The new work will be unveiled on Dec. 26.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli militiaman wounded in bomb attack

MARIYOUN (R) — A militiaman was wounded when guerrillas set off a bomb near a patrol of Israeli militia allies in South Lebanon Monday, security sources said. U.N. sources said Israeli forces fired tanks and mortar rounds at the guerrilla-held hills north of the zone after the explosion. Two Israeli helicopters strafed the area with machine guns and cannons. Security sources said the roadside bomb exploded when the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia patrol was driving between the villages of Markaba and Talloueh. The villages are on the edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in the south. Hizbollah group claimed responsibility for the bomb assault and said several members of the patrol were killed.

Peace delegation killed in Sudan crash

KHARTOUM (AP) — Eight members of a high-level government delegation flying to talk peace with southern Sudanese rebels died in the crash of their military helicopter, Sudan's official news agency reported Monday. Sudan News Agency said a technical failure caused Sunday's crash, in the southern Upper Nile region. The agency did not say exactly where the helicopter went down. But Egypt's Middle East News Agency said it was near Malakal, the regional capital 700 kilometres southwest of Khartoum. The area is partially controlled by rebel groups, who in the past have shot down military and civilian aircraft.

Threats against Israeli journalist over interview

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Right-wing extremists have threatened to kill the first Israeli television journalist to obtain an exclusive interview with Yasser Arafat, police said Monday. Yoni Ben Menachem's wife received a telephone call from someone claiming to speak for the anti-Arafat Kach movement which has pledged to fight the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy deal. "We will eliminate your husband who has shaken the hand of this assassin," the anonymous caller said. Police have stepped up patrols in the Jerusalem area where the family lives, although Mr. Ben Menachem is still in Tunis following the interview on Saturday.

PLO announces death of envoy to Spain

MADRID (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Monday announced the death of its representative to Spain, Issam Karneel Salem, who died at his Madrid home over the weekend. Salem, 55, apparently died of cardiac arrest last Sunday but an autopsy was planned, a PLO spokesman said. Aides discovered Salem's body in bed early Monday after he failed to report for work or answer phone calls. Salem, who became the PLO's top representative to Spain in 1990, played a key behind-the-scenes role in the 1991 Middle East peace talks in Madrid, acting as a coordinator between the PLO and the Palestinian negotiating team. The Madrid office served as an ostensibly secret meeting place for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's top adviser Nabil Shaath and the Palestinian negotiators.

Israel kept secret PLO talks in the 'family'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel kept the secret negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) all in the family, code-naming Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin "Grandad" and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres "Dad," the Yediot Aharanot newspaper disclosed. Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin was known as "Sonny," the daily said Monday. The talks in Norway produced on Aug. 19 agreement on a historic Palestinian autonomy deal starting in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho. When a Palestinian official called Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Egeland, he would ask: "What has Grandad asked Dad to pass on to Sonny?" the newspaper said. Mr. Egeland told the Yediot that only PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and four other Palestinians knew about the secret negotiations.

Israeli court rejects Vanunu petitions

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The supreme court threw out Monday two petitions by Israeli nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu who is serving 18 years for espionage and high treason. The hearing took place in camera and the content of the petitions was not revealed. Mr. Vanunu has previously requested the court to improve his jail conditions but repeated petitions have been rejected and he remains in an isolation cell. However, according to British officials, conditions have improved greatly in recent months following pressure from London. "His cell has been repainted, expanded, he has more recreation time and far better visiting rights, which is all encouraging," one British official told AFP.

U.N. asking Japan for peacekeeping role

TOKYO (AFP) — The United Nations is sounding out Japan about joining U.N. peacekeeping operations on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, a government official said. The Japanese military has already signalled its ability to carry out the task and the Foreign Ministry "reacted enthusiastically" to the idea, it said. The Japanese Foreign Ministry "is studying the nature and the possibilities of cooperation," the official said. There have been "informal discussions" with the Japanese mission in New York, but Japan needs more details from the U.N. side before it can give a reply, he said.

Jericho natives seek united stand on autonomy accord

By Suhair Obeldat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanians who trace their origins to the occupied West Bank town of Jericho are trying to come up with a unified stand vis-a-vis the recent Israeli-Palestinian autonomy plan in which their hometown assumes a key role.

Representatives of the community have called a meeting on Friday to discuss the issue.

The gathering "will enable the main families of Jericho to voice their opinion and come out with a unified stand, though the general position is support for the peace process," said Juma'a Musallam, a teacher born in Jericho in 1965, two years before Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The meeting will choose representatives who would act as spokespersons on behalf of the Jericho natives in Jordan "to launch talks with the Palestinian leadership in order to shape a role for themselves in future administration and organisation in the case of the implementation of the agreement," Mr. Musallam said.

Jericho, a sleepy ancient town on the main road between Amman and occupied Jerusalem, is expected to house the main base of an elected Palestinian self-rule authority after Israel withdraws from the town as well as the

Gaza Strip in line with an agreement reached with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The precise area around Jericho that Israeli will evacuate is still not known.

Under the Israeli-PLO deal, the Gaza Strip and Jericho will have a wider measure of Palestinian self-rule authority than the rest of the occupied territories during an interim five-year period. The final status of the territories will be decided in negotiations starting in the third year of autonomy.

Mr. Musallam described the Jericho community as tight-knit despite the lapse of 26 years after they took refuge in the East Bank in the wake of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

"Such ties are the main element that helped bring them together and come to a harmonious position," he said.

The schoolteacher, a member of the Jericho Cooperative Society, estimated that 7,000 Jericho natives fled to the East Bank in 1967 and now their number has grown to 20,000. All of them have Jordanian nationality.

Another Jericho native who preferred anonymity said he had several family members living in Jericho, but he had no intention of going back and settling there.

"If everything goes well, I might visit family members

once in a while," he said.

However, he added, "I believe that the issue of returning home should not be confined to Jericho natives alone. There are hundreds of thousands who left the West Bank in 1967. What does the deal represent for them?"

"Going back to Jericho, if and when the agreement is finally implemented, depends on two major elements — how and where. It is a decision which has to be carefully studied," said Mr. Musallam, who teaches Arabic at a school in Naour in the southwestern outskirts of Amman.

It remains unclear how the autonomy agreement will address the issue of the estimated 800,000 Palestinians, including Jericho natives, who fled the occupied West Bank during the 1967 war. They live mainly in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon as well as the Gulf states.

Jordanian officials were this week quoted as saying that 246,000 Palestinian refugees settled in Jordan in 1967, and 57,000 others came to Jordan in 1968 and remained there after Israel refused to allow them back into the occupied territories.

At a press conference Saturday, His Majesty King Hussein affirmed that the return of the Palestinian refugees is an issue that must be and would be dealt with in future negotiations.